



Trump takes bold stance at NATO as impeachment boils at home

By ZEKE MILLER and AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Thumping his chest on the world stage as he faces an impeachment inquiry at home, President Donald Trump claimed credit Tuesday for transforming NATO as the military alliance marks its 70th anniversary. But he also clashed with America's NATO allies, especially French President Emmanuel Macron, about defense spending and the alliance's very mission.

Trump began the first of two days at the NATO conference by publicly rebuking Macron, once arguably his closest European ally, for recently saying the post-World War II alliance was experiencing "brain death" as a result of diminished U.S. leadership under Trump.



President Donald Trump meets French President Emmanuel Macron at Winfield House, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, in London.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 8

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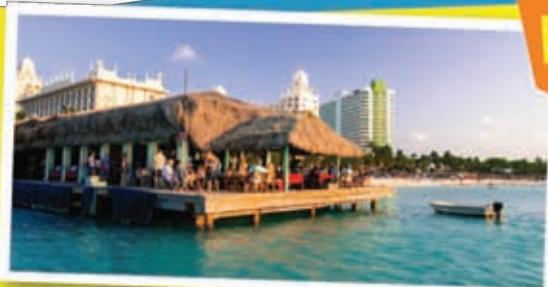
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Court sides with Congress in battle for Trump's bank records

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court in New York handed President Donald Trump another legal defeat, ruling Tuesday that Congress can see his banking records for investigations into possible foreign influence in U.S. politics or other misdeeds.

A panel of 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges said two banks, Deutsche Bank and Capital One, should comply with subpoenas from the House Financial Services and Intelligence committees seeking records related to Trump's business ventures.

The court said Congress was acting within its constitutional authority to investigate a series of significant

issues, including whether Trump was "vulnerable to foreign exploitation." It rejected arguments that the subpoenas were meant merely to embarrass the president, though the court said Trump did deserve some privacy protections and outlined procedures for protecting some sensitive personal information in the documents from public disclosure. It also gave Trump a limited chance to object to disclosure of certain documents.

Judge Debra Ann Livingston said in a partial dissent that the lower court should take a longer look at the "serious questions" raised by the case and give the parties time to negotiate.

Jay Sekulow, Trump's personal lawyer, said in a



President Donald Trump meets French President Emmanuel Macron at Winfield House, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, in London.

Associated Press

statement that an appeal to the Supreme Court was under consideration.

"We believe the subpoena is invalid as issued. In light of the Second Circuit decision, we are evaluating our next options," he said.

The ruling by the appeals court upheld a May ruling by U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos, who had said Trump and his company were unlikely to succeed in proving that the subpoenas were unlawful and unconstitutional. The 2nd Circuit panel said three of his children had not shown a likelihood of success on any of their claims and had not identified a single factual issue to take to trial or a single witness or document that might add substance to their claims at trial.

Lawyers for the House committees, both of which are controlled by Democrats, say they need access to documents from the banks to investigate possible "foreign influence in the U.S. political process" and possi-

ble money laundering from abroad. In a decision written by Circuit Judge Jon O. Newman, the appeals court said that while Trump and his children might suffer a loss of privacy if the documents were disclosed to Congress, the records had to do with their business ventures, not intimate personal details.

"The Committees' interests in pursuing their constitutional legislative function is a far more significant public interest than whatever public interest inheres in avoiding the risk of a Chief Executive's distraction arising from disclosure of documents reflecting his private financial transactions," the decision said.

Deutsche Bank has lent Trump's real estate company millions of dollars over the years.

The court noted that the president had not disputed that the bank loaned him at least \$130 million when no other bank would do so. "That unusual circumstance

adequately supports requests for information to determine whether proper banking procedures have been followed," the decision said.

The ruling is likely to put several appeals over Trump's financial records at the Supreme Court's door at once.

In mid-November, Trump's lawyers filed an emergency appeal with the high court over a ruling in a Washington, D.C., case involving a subpoena from a House committee for financial records held by Trump's accountants.

And Trump's lawyers are also counting on the Supreme Court to rule by next summer whether Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. can obtain Trump's tax returns since 2011 from his accountant as part of a wide-ranging criminal grand jury probe. They argue that Trump cannot be prosecuted or even investigated for crimes while he's president. □

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DHS may require U.S. citizens be photographed at airports



In this Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, file photo, travelers walk through a security checkpoint in Terminal 2 at Salt Lake City International Airport, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Federal officials are considering requiring that all travelers — including American citizens — be photographed as they enter or leave the country as part of an identification system using facial-recognition technology.

The Department of Homeland Security says it expects to publish a proposed rule next July. Officials did not respond to requests for more details.

Critics are already raising objections.

Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said Tuesday he will introduce legislation to block the plan and prohibit U.S. citizens from being forced to provide facial-recognition information. He said a recent data breach at Customs and Border Protection shows that Homeland Security can't be trusted with the information.

Facial recognition is being tested by several airlines at a number of U.S. airports. American citizens are allowed to opt out of being photographed, although

a 2017 audit by a federal watchdog agency found that few U.S. travelers exercised that right — barely more than one per flight. Federal law requires Homeland Security to put into place a system to use biometrics to confirm the identity of international travelers.

Government officials have made no secret of their desire to expand the use of biometrics, which they say could identify potential terrorists and prevent fraudulent use of travel documents.

Homeland Security announced the possibility of expanding biometrics to U.S. citizens in a recent, brief filing. A spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, part of Homeland Security, said there would be a chance for the public to comment on any change in regulations.

In a November 2018 report, Homeland Security said facial recognition is the best biometric approach at borders because it can be done quickly and "with a high degree of accuracy."

The agency said privacy risks "are mostly mitigated." Photos used to match Americans to their identities are deleted within 12 hours, according to the report.

Jay Stanley, a policy analyst for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the

government has told the public and Congress repeatedly that American citizens would be exempt from mandatory biometric screening.

"This new notice suggests that the government is renegeing on what was al-

ready an insufficient promise," Stanley said in a statement. "Travelers, including U.S. citizens, should not have to submit to invasive biometric scans simply as a condition of exercising their constitutional right to travel." □



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Jill Biden: Voters 'disgusted' Trump enlisted foreign help

By BILL BARROW

Associated Press

PARKERSBURG, Iowa (AP)

— Jill Biden said Tuesday that campaigning on her husband's behalf has convinced her that most Americans are "disgusted" with President Donald Trump and his effort to enlist Ukrainian help in discrediting her family.

"People know who Donald Trump is," Jill Biden said in an interview, adding that Trump is offering voters a "distraction" with his accusations that the Bidens engaged in corrupt dealings when son Hunter Biden accepted a lucrative position with a Ukrainian energy firm while his father handled U.S.-Ukraine relations as vice president.

"They know it's a lie," Jill Biden told The Associated Press as she finished four days of campaigning with her husband, Joe Biden, and on her own in the first caucus state of Iowa.

"It's pretty disgusting, as a matter of fact, that our president has invited other countries to get involved in our elections," Jill Biden said. "People are pretty dis-



Jill Biden speaks after her husband Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden during a bus tour stop, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, in Mason City, Iowa.

Associated Press

gusted by that. They don't want foreign interference in our elections."

Of course, that doesn't mean the 2020 spotlight is easy for Hunter, she acknowledged.

"I see Hunter. I know how he's doing. I'm his mother," Jill Biden, 68, said. "There's nothing better than your

mom coming up and giving you a hug and saying, 'Honey, I love you and it's going to be OK.' His name is out there day after day after day, with Trump pounding and pounding and pounding. So, you know, I'm a mom. I'm his mom."

Hunter Biden, 49, has admitted exercising "poor

judgment" when he accepted a position on a foreign energy board in one of the world's geopolitical hotspots, but he has denied any wrongdoing, and Ukrainian officials have said they found nothing untoward.

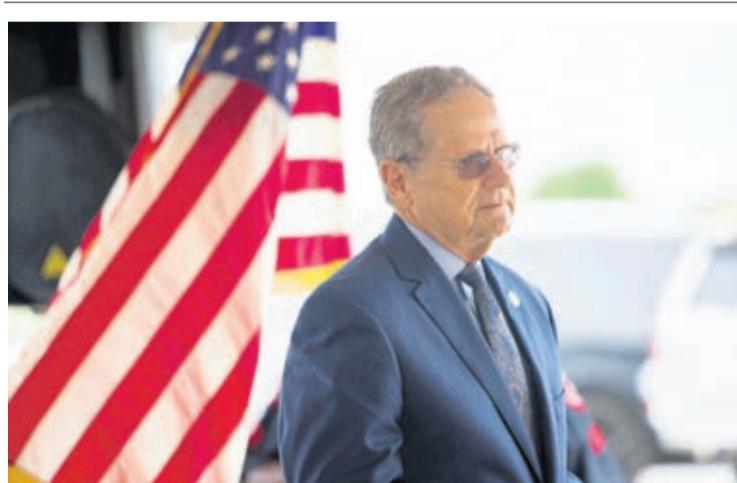
However difficult the dynamics are personally, Jill

Biden said, she's convinced they fall squarely in Joe Biden's political wheelhouse.

"This election is a referendum on character, and I think people know Joe that way ... they know what kind of man he is," she said. "I think they admire Joe, and they want a president they can feel proud of. Joe is that person."

Separately, she also dismissed concerns about whether her 77-year-old husband is up for the job, and she expressed frustrations over the spotlight on his verbal fumbles, noting that she'd just finished a speech in which she had to correct herself after referring to "the NEA" -- the National Education Association -- instead of "the NRA," the National Rifle Association.

"You're saying your speech over and over again," she said. "On one of my stops today, a woman was talking about how she can't afford her insulin, her pump. They're worried about real problems or how to put food on the table or how to send their kids to college. □



In a Monday, June 17, 2019, photo, state Rep. Rick Miller, R-Sugar Land, stands at a news conference celebrating progress on the Sugar Land 95 Memorial Project in Sugar Land, Texas.

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A white Texas Republican lawmaker who suggested

his political rivals on the ballot were motivated to run against him because

Texas lawmaker ends campaign over 'Asian' candidate remarks

they're Asian dropped his reelection bid Tuesday following a backlash that included losing the endorsement of the state's GOP governor.

State Rep. Rick Miller since 2013 has represented a suburban Houston district in Fort Bend County, one of the most diverse counties in the U.S. He told the Houston Chronicle that one of his primary opponents, Jacey Jetton, was running against him in 2020 "because he is an Asian" and decided "that my district might need

an Asian to win."

"And that's kind of racist in my mind, but anyway, that's not necessary, at least not yet," Miller told the newspaper.

He went on to suggest that a second challenger, Leonard Chan, had similar motivations.

"I don't know, I never met the guy. I have no idea who he is," Miller said of Chan. "He has not been around Republican channels at all, but he's an Asian."

Gov. Greg Abbott withdrew his endorsement of

Miller after the interview was published. Hours later, Miller released a statement to the newspaper and other outlets saying he would abandon his reelection bid and described his remarks as "insensitive and inexcusable."

"My comments were not made with malice nor do they reflect who I am or who I strive to be," he said. Chan and Jetton told the newspaper that the remarks show why the suburban Houston district needs a change. □

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Asylum seekers jam U.S. border crossings to evade Trump policy

By ASTRID GALVAN

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — For months, asylum seekers have been prohibited from filing their claims at U.S. border crossings under a much-criticized Trump administration policy. Now some are sprinting down vehicle lanes or renting cars to try to make it inside the U.S.

The migrants' efforts are causing traffic delays at Arizona crossings because U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials had to barricade lanes used by cars legally entering the U.S. from Mexico, officials said.

Advocates say many have become desperate after waiting for months to legally ask for asylum, often in poor conditions and while facing threats of kidnapping, extortion and violence south of the border. Shoppers, teachers and visitors traveling to the U.S. through Nogales, Mexico, endured up to five-hour waits Monday and over the weekend, causing concerns among local officials whose tax base relies on Mexican shoppers, especially during the holiday season.

In a statement, Customs and Border Protection said it's committed to the safety of border crossers, adding that there's been an increase of incursions through vehicle lanes "by

asylum seekers attempting to evade established entry processes." "These tactics interfere with CBP officers conducting their responsibilities and exacerbates wait times for daily commuters," the agency said in a statement. "CBP will not allow ports to be overrun, or unauthorized entry." The traffic jams could hurt sales at stores in Nogales, Arizona that depend on Mexican shoppers during the holiday season, said Mayor Arturo Garino.

Garino, a part-time teacher, said some students and teachers who live in Mexico but attend and work at schools across the border in the U.S. have been leaving their homes as early as 5 a.m. to arrive on time. Garino said Mexican authorities were not doing enough to stem the problem. The Arizona Daily Star reported the Nogales, Sonora, police officers were checking cars headed north to the border on Monday afternoon. About 3,000 migrants are living in Nogales, Mexico as they wait their turns to seek asylum, said Katie Sharar, communications director for the Kino Border Initiative, a religious-based group that provides meals to needy migrants on the Mexican side of the border.

Under a policy by the Trump administration known widely as "metering," the asylum-seekers must wait in an

unofficial line in Mexico until U.S. authorities call them up in a process that usually lasts several months.

Another policy, colloquially known as "Remain in Mexico," requires asylum seekers to return to Mexico after they have made credible fear claims to justify their asylum requests and wait there while their immigration cases are pending. □



This June 1, 2009, file photo, shows vehicles waiting to enter the U.S. through The Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry in downtown Nogales, Ariz.

Associated Press

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Wisconsin officers on front lines in 2 student shootings

By IVAN MORENO, TODD RICHMOND and GRETCHEN EHLKE

Associated Press

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin high school resource officers have found themselves on the front lines in two student shootings in the past two days, underscoring how police in schools can face life-or-death situations and likely adding to the debate over the best ways to respond to school threats.

An Oshkosh Police Department resource officer shot a 16-year-old student Tuesday after the boy stabbed him in the officer's office at Oshkosh West High School. A day earlier, a resource officer at Waukesha South High School helped clear students out of a classroom after a 17-year-old student pointed a gun — it turned out to be a pellet gun — at another student's head. Another police officer entered the room and shot the student. No one in either incident suffered life-threatening injuries.

"Today's tragic event shows that trained school resource officers can save lives," Oshkosh Superintendent Vickie Cartwright said at a news conference.

The debate about the role of armed teachers or police in schools has been a constant in the wake of school shootings across the country. But rarely have armed resource officers been able to prevent a shooting.

An estimated 43% of public



Parents wait in line to be reunited with students at the Tipler Middle school reunification center on Tuesday December 3, 2019, in Oshkosh, Wis.

Associated Press

schools have armed officers on campus, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics. The survey covered the 2015-2016 school year, the most recent year surveyed. That figure doesn't include schools with armed private security guards or teachers and administrators who carry guns.

The U.S. Department of Justice has adopted best practices for resource officers from the National Association of School Resources. Those guidelines call for resource officers to serve as police officers as well as teachers and

mentors. NASRO recommends such officers have three years of experience and says they should be willing to engage with students and have excellent communication skills. They should complete a school-based policing course before being assigned to the beat and complete an advanced school policing course NASRO provides within a year of completing the basic course. They also should complete bi-annual training on how lone officers should handle threats and assailants.

No Wisconsin laws spell out any special requirements

for resource officers or restrictions on their weapons. But the state Department of Justice has adopted best practices similar to NASRO's recommendations, calling for officers to work with schools on the extent of their duties, the skills they need, and where school discipline ends and illegal conduct begins. The state guidelines also suggest officers receive training in child development, restraint policies and de-escalation strategies. It's not clear what led to Tuesday's stabbing at Oshkosh West High School, which has 1,700 students.

Police Chief Dean Smith said only that the officer and the student got into an "altercation" in the officer's office, the student stabbed the officer with an edged weapon — Smith declined to elaborate — and the officer opened fire with his 9 mm pistol, hitting the student once. It's unclear how many times the officer may have fired.

At Waukesha South High School, 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Oshkosh in suburban Milwaukee, the student apparently grew angry with another student and pointed a pellet gun at the other student. The school's resource officer helped clear students from the classroom.

Linda Ager told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that the Waukesha shooting happened in the classroom of her husband, Brett Hart, a special education teacher at Waukesha South. Ager said her husband restrained the student until the resource officer arrived. At some point, another officer entered the room and shot the student who refused to drop the weapon. As school shootings have become more frequent, gun rights advocates and gun control advocates have sparred over how best to respond to them. Supporters of gun restrictions have argued that putting more guns in schools does little to prevent shootings and just puts students at greater risk. □

NTSB: Poor training led to 2017 Minneapolis school explosion

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Federal investigators have concluded that a deadly explosion at a Minneapolis school in 2017 happened because a pipefitting crew lacked proper training and wasn't fully authorized to move a gas meter.

The National Transportation Safety Board released its report Monday on the explosion at Minnehaha Academy that killed two people and injured nine more at the private Christian school.

Workers for the natural gas supplier CenterPoint Ener-



In this Aug. 2, 2017 file photo, emergency workers respond to an explosion at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis. In this Aug. 2, 2017 file photo, emergency workers respond to an explosion at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

gy and Eagan-based Master Mechanical Inc. were moving meters on Aug. 2, 2017, when the explosion happened. School was out but some staff members and students were present. The NTSB says the crew, working for Master Mechanical, mistakenly believed a key valve was closed before they started disassembling the gas installation. According to the findings, the two-person crew's foreman did not have the proper licensing and training "to work on the covered tasks" associated with mov-

ing the utility's meters. The foreman's son, who was helping, had no training for pipefitter work, failed to complete the required CenterPoint Energy's qualifications program and had only been with Master Mechanical about eight months at the time of the blast, the agency said.

"The probable cause of the natural gas explosion ... occurred when a pipe fitting crew disassembled piping upstream of a gas service meter" that was off-limits to the workers, the agency said. □



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25 jail officers indicted, accused of using excessive force

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — More than two dozen correctional officers in Baltimore were charged Tuesday with using excessive force on prisoners at state-operated jails in a city plagued by decades of institutional corruption, inside and outside jailhouse walls.

The 25 indicted officers are accused of assaulting and threatening detainees at correctional facilities, tampering with evidence and falsifying documents, said Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, whose office secured the indictments.

Maryland corrections secretary Robert Green said all the indicted officers have been on administrative leave since 2018, when the state Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services began investigating the allegations.

Indicted officers used social media to publicly promote their "reputation and successes," and they furtively used winks, nods and other body language to warn each other about the presence of supervisors and other 'non-members,'" the indictment says.

Gov. Larry Hogan said in a statement that his administration has no tolerance for corruption in the state's correctional system.

"Our correctional officers have one of the most difficult jobs in all of public safety, and we will not let the criminal behavior of the few tarnish the great work of the nearly 5,000 dedicated officers who serve



Maryland State Attorney Marilyn Mosby, right, speaks during a news conference announcing the indictment of correctional officers, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

with distinction every single day," he said.

Hogan, a Republican, said the department's anti-corruption efforts have led to the arrests and convictions of more than 200 officers, inmates and "citizen accomplices."

In 2015, Maryland closed the men's section of a state-run Baltimore jail that was notorious for its decrepit conditions, criminal activity and corruption. In 2013, a federal indictment exposed a sophisticated smuggling ring operating inside the Baltimore City Detention Center, involving dozens of gang members and correctional officers. The investigation also revealed that a jailhouse gang leader had impreg-

nated four female guards. Corruption has infected many corners of Baltimore's city government.

Most recently, disgraced former mayor Catherine Pugh pleaded guilty to federal charges stemming from sales of her self-published children's books. Another former mayor, Sheila Dixon, left office in 2010 as part of a plea deal for misappropriating about \$500 in gift cards meant for needy families.

The city's corruption-riddled police department remains under a federal consent decree following the April 2015 death of a young black man, Freddie Gray, while in police custody. The department also has been rocked by a string of indict-

ments and guilty pleas by task force officers accused of extortion, robbery, falsifying evidence and reselling seized drugs.

Mosby said 21 of the 25 indicted officers were taken into custody Tuesday. All were members of a tactical unit with a paramilitary command structure operating inside four detention facilities in Baltimore and Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The indicted officers face a combined total 236 counts, including charges of assault and participating in a criminal gang, Mosby said. Mosby said the officers used violence and intimidation to "maintain its dominance and its operational territory" inside the jails.

"All 25 of these correctional officers have allegedly abused their power and abused our trust," she added.

The indictment includes alleged offenses against 25 prisoners and incidents that occurred as far back as 2016, authorities said.

"This case represents our strong effort to root out people who don't belong in the field where public safety and rehabilitation is the mission," Green, the corrections secretary, told reporters. "This is a disturbing case, but it does not represent nor should it cast a shadow on the commitment and integrity of the exceptional correctional professionals in this department." □

Trump takes bold stance at NATO as impeachment boils at home

Continued from Front

"I think that's insulting to a lot of different forces," said Trump. "It's very disrespectful." But the president himself has questioned whether the alliance has become "obsolete," and he accused NATO members anew of shirking national commitments on military spending.

Hours later, Macron and Trump sat side by side for a media session, and Macron said he stood by his comments about the health of the NATO alliance. He also firmly expressed his frustration that Trump withdrew hundreds of American troops from Syria in October.

The U.S. president bantered with reporters for more than two hours Tuesday, sitting casually in a salon of Winfield House, the manicured estate of the U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom, where he also met with fellow NATO leaders.

He slammed the ongoing Democratic-led impeachment inquiry back in the United States as a ""hoax" and professed to be un-

concerned about declines in the stock market spurred by his remark that a trade deal with China might not materialize until after the 2020 election.

Trump later called on Prince Charles and his wife Camilla and attended a NATO welcome reception at Buckingham Palace, before proceeding to an event at the prime minister's residence at Number 10 Downing Street. Trump punctuated the day of diplomacy with a fundraiser for his reelection effort that his campaign said brought in \$3 million.

The gathering of NATO leaders follows Trump's frequent criticism of alliance members as falling well short in doing their financial part through the first three years of his presidency. After a NATO summit last year, he called for members to devote at least 4% of gross domestic product to military spending and took aim at German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whom he accused of paying Russia "billions of dollars for gas and energy" while failing to meet her nation's commit-



ment to spend at least 2% of GDP on defense.

But at this NATO meeting, Trump — who heads toward an election year looking to showcase foreign policy wins — is offering a more optimistic outlook for the alliance's future. To that end, he suggested he deserved much of the credit for progress.

"I don't think frankly before us that NATO was changing at all, and NATO is re-

Leaders of the NATO alliance countries, and its secretary general, join Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles the Prince of Wales, for a group picture during a reception at Buckingham Palace in London, Tuesday Dec. 3, 2019, as they gathered to mark 70-years of the alliance. Back row, from left: Xavier Bettel Prime Minister of Luxembourg; Egils Levits President of Latvia; Gitanas Nausėda President of Lithuania; Dusko Markovic Prime Minister of Montenegro; Erna Solberg Prime Minister of Norway; Mark Rutte Prime Minister of Netherlands; Zuzana Čaputová President of Slovakia; Andrzej Duda President of Poland; Antonio Costa Prime Minister of Portugal; Klaus Iohannis President of Romania; Marjan Šarec Prime Minister of Slovenia. Middle row from left: Edi Rama Prime Minister of Albania; Zoran Zaev Prime Minister of North Macedonia; Mette Frederiksen Prime Minister of Denmark; Juri Ratas Prime Minister of Estonia; Emmanuel Macron President of France; Angela Merkel President of Germany; Kyriakos Mitsotakis Prime Minister of Greece; Viktor Orbán Prime Minister of Hungary; Katrín Jakobsdóttir Prime Minister of Iceland; Giuseppe Conte Prime Minister of Italy; Andrej Plenković Prime Minister of Croatia. Seated from left: Sophie Wilmes Prime Minister of Belgium; Rumen Radev President of Bulgaria; Donald Trump President of United States; Prince Charles The Prince of Wales; Jens Stoltenberg NATO Secretary General; Queen Elizabeth II; Boris Johnson Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada; Pedro Sánchez Acting Prime Minister of Spain; Recep Tayyip Erdogan President of Turkey; Miloš Zeman President of the Czech Republic.

Associated Press

ally changing right now," Trump said as he sat down for a one-on-one talk with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

White House officials say that before Trump took office just four NATO members had reached the 2% benchmark set in 2014. Now there are nine. Eighteen of the 29 are projected to meet it by 2024.

Stoltenberg said that Trump does deserve credit for nudging members.

In his meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Trump gently ribbed the premier — whose country is spending about 1.3% of GDP on defense — as "slightly delinquent."

"Some are major delinquent," said Trump. He

added that he's looking at the possibility of imposing unspecified trade penalties against NATO allies that perpetually fall below benchmarks.

"Some are way below 1 percent and that's unacceptable, and then if something happens we're supposed to protect them and it's not really fair and it never has been fair," he said.

Trump's talks with Macron were tense at times.

Before meeting with him on the sidelines of the summit, Trump laced into the French president for what he called "very, very nasty" comments in The Economist about NATO's health with Trump leading its most important member. □

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Israel to U.N.: Uprooted Jews should be seen as refugees

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Israel wants the United Nations to recognize as refugees hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled Arab and Muslim countries in the last century, its U.N. envoy said Tuesday.

Ambassador Danny Danon told the U.N. General Assembly that he plans to propose a resolution about what he called "the 'forgotten' Jewish refugees."

"We don't hear the international community speak of them when they discuss the refugees of the conflict, perhaps because it doesn't serve the Palestinian narrative," Danon said, accusing the international community of taking a one-sided approach to refugees and other aspects of the conflict.

He didn't detail his planned resolution, except to say that it would "acknowledge the wrong done" to the Jews in question and "make right the injustice that they suffered."

Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour reiterated appeals for humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees and said the assembly's long history of resolutions on the conflict don't amount to prejudice against Israel. "It doesn't work that way," he told the group.

The remarks came as the assembly weighed, and ultimately approved, resolutions that continue the work of various U.N. components



In this Tuesday March 26, 2019 file photo, Israel United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon addresses the U.N. Security Council, during a meeting on the Palestinian and Israeli conflict at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

concerned with Palestinian matters and reiterate a roster of longstanding positions on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. One measure includes a call for a stop to Israeli settlement of areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war — a stance given new resonance by the recent U.S. announcement that it no longer believes the settlements violate international law. Danon said an estimated 850,000 Jews were forced out of Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, and many other countries during the 20th century after enduring vio-

lence and persecution. Many fled to Israel around the time of its establishment in 1948.

The uprooted Jews were absorbed in Israel, where their descendants now make up about half the country's Jewish population.

The bid for refugee recognition may be largely symbolic at this juncture, but it reflects Israel's determination to highlight what it considers to be years of pro-Palestinian bias at the U.N., including on the issue of refugees. An estimated 700,000 Pales-

tinians fled or were forced from their homes during the war. A U.N. agency assists them and their descendants — all told, about 5.5 million people — in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Palestinians and the U.N. see its Relief and Works Agency as a lifeline for impoverished people with no state of their own. International support for it is "an indispensable source of hope and stability until a just solution for the Palestine refugees is realized," Mansour told the General Assembly on Tuesday.

Israel and the United States, however, have lambasted UNRWA as anti-Israel and badly run. The U.S. cut its funding for the agency from \$360 million in 2017 to \$60 million in 2018 and nothing this year, calling the agency "irredeemably flawed."

On the settlements issue, one of Tuesday's Assembly resolutions stresses a call for "an immediate halt to all settlement activities," among many other oft-repeated themes. It passed 147-7, with 13 abstentions. Assembly resolutions are not legally binding or enforceable, but they indicate world opinion.

Hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas that Palestinians claim for their future state. The U.N. and the Palestinians say the settlements are illegal and undermine hopes for the long-discussed two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 2016, a U.N. Security Council resolution called the settlements "a flagrant violation under international law."

The U.S. announcement last month upended a four-decade-old State Department legal opinion and subsequent years of carefully calibrated U.S. opposition to settlement construction.

Israeli leaders welcomed the U.S. decision. Palestinians bitterly protested it. □

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This undated file photo provided on Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, surrounded by a military unit, reacts to what it claims as a test firing of its "super-large" multiple rocket launcher in North Korea.

Associated Press

North Korea says it's up to U.S. to choose 'Christmas gift'

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Tuesday repeated its assertions that the Trump administration is running out of time to salvage nuclear negotiations, saying it's entirely up to the United States to choose what "Christmas gift" it gets from the North.

The statement, attributed to a senior diplomat, came as North Korea continues to dial up pressure on Washington and Seoul ahead of leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal. Negotiations have faltered since a February summit between Kim and President Donald Trump broke down after the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Working-level talks held in Sweden in October broke down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude."

Ri Thae Song, a vice foreign minister handling U.S. affairs, accused Washington of repeating talk offers aimed at buying time without offering real solutions. In comments reported by state media, Ri reiterated earlier North Korean statements that the country has no intention to continue the nuclear diplomacy unless it gets something substantial in return. "The dialogue touted by the U.S. is, in essence, nothing but a foolish trick hatched to keep the DPRK bound to dialogue and use it in favor of the political situation and election in the U.S.," Ri said, referring to North Korea by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. □



In this Nov. 29, 2019, photo, the Upe members vote at a men-only voting booth in the Bougainville referendum in Teau, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

Associated Press

Regular voting ends as Bougainville considers independence

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — They voted in highland villages and on remote atolls. Even 15 youth who live in the jungle and wear bright Upe hats as they undergo traditional training to become men had the chance to vote. All across the Pacific region of Bougainville, people have voted in a historic referendum to decide if they want to become the world's newest nation by gaining independence from Papua New Guinea. Regular voting ended on Tuesday while any remaining postal votes will be accepted through Saturday. The results will be announced in mid-December.

The referendum is nonbinding, and a vote for independence would then need to be negotiated by leaders

from both Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. The final say would then go to lawmakers in the Papua New Guinea Parliament.

Chief Referendum Officer Mauricio Claudio said there had been long queues and high enthusiasm at many of the 828 polling places.

"During polling we've witnessed a festive and joyous mood," he said. "There have been dancing troupes and whole communities getting together."

Claudio said that giving Upes a chance to vote at male-only polling stations was one of many referendum firsts. He said election officers hiked for two hours into the jungle to collect the votes.

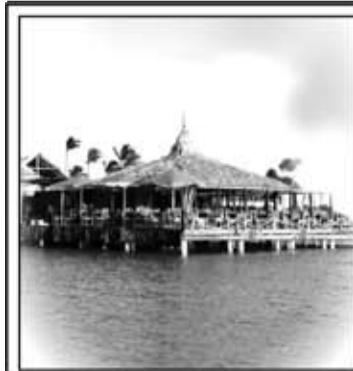
The young Upe men can remain isolated from their communities for several years as they learn about culture, medicine, hunting and other skills. During this

time, they wear the tall, woven Upe hats that hide their hair and are forbidden to be seen by women.

Election officers also traveled by overnight boat to get to some of the five offshore atolls and visited a police lockup to collect votes from prisoners.

Claudio said there was only one disruption, in the Konou area, where a long-simmering dispute led police to advise referendum officers to close one polling station. The affected voters got a chance to cast their ballots elsewhere.

Complicating the voting process were the limited communications throughout the region and the traditional way many people live, including not owning any photo identification. Added to that, the Bougainville Referendum Commission only secured its funding in March. □



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Complacency a concern as AIDS treatment improves in Africa

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) —

AIDS has no cure. HIV is still here. But some people are forgetting that.

Those are some of the bold messages Uganda's leader is emphasizing as health officials try to stem stubbornly high infection rates among young people in this East African country that years ago won praise as a global leader in fighting the epidemic.

In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the region most affected, fewer people are dying from AIDS as treatment is more widely available and patients live normally. Yet some officials and activists worry that success may be encouraging a sense of complacency.

The head of HIV prevention at Uganda's AIDS agency, Dr. Daniel Byamukama, recently asked leaders of a popular church that organizes a retreat for young people to give him 20 minutes to make a presentation about AIDS. They turned him down, saying "AIDS is common sense" these days.

Many young people believe "HIV is gone," he told The Associated Press.

In Uganda and neighboring Kenya, countries with two of the world's highest AIDS rates, campaigners point to lower-than-satisfactory HIV testing rates among adult men, early sexual experiences among many adolescents, inadequate knowledge of HIV and reproductive health and even what UNAIDS calls "a crippling fear of buying condoms" among many Ugandans.

Now Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who earned praise in the 1980s for his government's openness in public campaigns



In this Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 file photo, a woman walks past a World AIDS Day banner in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Associated Press

against HIV, believes officials have focused too much on treatment in recent years and wants them to speak simply to young people with messages noting that "HIV is here with us." An estimated 500 Ugandans die weekly from AIDS-related illnesses.

"Why are you in a hurry to have sex at 16, at 18, at 20 and then you die, or you start having problems which you may live with all your life? Why don't you wait, hold on, you study, finish your degree and then look for a partner at the right time?" Museveni says in a video released as part of a new campaign backed by UNAIDS, a United Nations agency.

More than 37 million people were living with HIV worldwide in 2018, with Africa accounting for nearly one in every 25 adults infected with the virus, according to the World Health Organization.

Africa's young people, especially girls, are among the worst affected. Girls

made up 79% of new HIV infections in people ages 10 to 19 in East and southern Africa in 2017, according to UNAIDS.

More than 90% of deaths worldwide from AIDS-related illness among adolescents occurred in sub-Saharan Africa in 2017, UNAIDS says. And infection rates among young people likely will rise as Africa experiences a youth boom, with its population of over 1.2 billion expected to double by 2050, according to the UK-based AIDS charity Avert.

Health authorities and campaigners in Uganda, with over 70% of its population under age 30, say the fear factor once associated with HIV has dissipated, partly encouraging risky sexual behavior. Only 9% of men aged between 30 and 44 used a condom when they had extramarital sex in 2018, according to official statistics showing a declining rate of condom use. That's a shift from the past. Uganda, with its ABC strategy — for absti-

nence, faithfulness and condom use — brought the HIV rate there from 18% in 1992 to under 10% by 2005. Although the HIV rate now stands at just over 6%, the population has soared from 15 million in 1986 to over 42 million today, and in some parts of the country the rate is higher than the national average.

"A lot of the young people, now adolescents, were not old enough to see the old HIV, how aggressive it was," said Dr. Nelson Musoba, chief of the Uganda AIDS Commission. "We are telling them that ... if you are not an adult, please abstain."

Ugandan students of a certain generation often were shown videos of the devastating toll of AIDS on the body and then told to postpone the first act of intercourse. That bluntness was widely seen as effective in discouraging risky sexual behavior.

Rubaramira Ruranga, a Ugandan campaigner who has lived with HIV for 35 years, said it is clear the

current view of AIDS as just another chronic disease partly encourages risky behavior as people know there is medicine one can take shortly after sexual contact to prevent HIV.

"There is this thing that there is medicine, and the psychological part of the problem is almost forgotten," he said. "Prevention is being misunderstood."

Earlier this year Ugandan health authorities released a report saying an estimated 1,000 people get infected with HIV every week, 34% of them between ages 15 and 24.

In Kenya, 51% of all new HIV infections in 2015 occurred in people between 15 and 24, up from 29% in 2013. One in three of all new HIV infections in Kenya occurs among teenagers aged 15 to 19, according to official figures.

Rahab Mwaniki, a campaigner with the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium, cited the problem of "early sexual debut," saying it leads to teenage pregnancies and exposes many to HIV in a country where 1.6 million people have the virus. Both Kenya and Uganda have intensified efforts to promote self-testing. An oral HIV self-test kit, piloted in Kenya, was launched in Uganda in September by authorities who say they hope it will encourage more men to know their status.

Of the 1.4 million Ugandans living with HIV, 14% are not aware of their positive status. It means they are not getting treatment and can infect others.

HIV testing "in their privacy and their convenient time" shields men from the rampant stigma preventing many from seeking HIV services in a hospital setting, Mwaniki said. □

Rio Treaty nations move to further isolate Venezuela

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Representatives from over a dozen nations that are signatories to a Cold War-era defense treaty for the Americas moved Tuesday to further isolate close allies of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro with targeted sanctions.

The 1947 Rio Treaty signatories vowed to cooperate in pursuing economic sanctions and travel restrictions for Maduro government associates accused of corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering or human rights violations.

"The political, economic and social crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela represents a threat for the peace and security of the continent," Colombian Foreign Minister Claudia Blum said in the meeting's final remarks.

While the United States and the European Union have targeted Maduro associates with economic sanctions, Latin American



In this Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 photo, May Vera eyes the camera during a demonstration led by opposition politician Juan Guaidó, who's urging masses into the streets to force President Nicolás Maduro from power, in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

Associated Press

nations who are supporting opposition leader Juan Guaidó have largely resorted to diplomatic pressure. The promise of enhanced economic pressure against Maduro comes at a time when Venezuela's oppo-

sition is faltering. Guaidó has struggled to mobilize supporters onto the streets and dipped in popularity. Meanwhile, fissures within the opposition are coming to light amidst recent controversies involving alleged abuses of power.

David Smilde, a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America, said the Rio Treaty's resolution Tuesday marks a "small victory" for the opposition but "not enough to really put them in a different place." "Their strategy of maximum pressure seems to be stalling," he said.

Those identified for targeted sanctions by Rio Treaty member nations include: Diosdado Cabello, head of the all-powerful National Constitutional Assembly; Judge Maikel Moreno, chief of the government-stacked Supreme Court; media magnate Raúl Gorrín; and Alex Saab, an obscure Colombian businessman who came onto the radar of U.S. authorities after amassing a large number of contracts from the Maduro government.

Carlos Vecchio, who represents Guaidó in Washington, said that list of over two dozen individuals is a "first step" and that the opposition will be pressuring for more names to be added to the sanctions list in the months ahead.

"The important thing is for international pressure to remain," he said.

Rio Treaty nations have been treading cautiously in pursuing economic restrictions against Venezuela while vowing not to invoke a provision in the accord that authorizes them to pursue a military intervention. The accord instructs all 19 signatories to consider a threat against any one of them a danger to all.

Colombian President Iván Duque maintains that Maduro is offering a safe haven to rebel factions of the National Liberation Army and dissidents with the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, an assertion the Venezuelan leader denies. But he repeated previous remarks urging a diplomatic response rather than a military resolution to Venezuela's political and economic turmoil.

"Here there's no invitation for use of force," Duque said.

Venezuela's tumult is having increasingly geopolitical ramifications as nearly 6 million flee, putting stress on neighboring countries, and powerful Maduro allies like Russia and China step in to support the socialist government.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that all options remain on the table but described U.S.

strategy toward Venezuela as one "mixed with restraint" that would continue to focus on economic penalties. "We've learned from history that the risks from using military force are significant," he said.

Venezuelan leaders nonetheless point to the Rio Treaty's invocation as a sign that adversaries plan to invade.

"The people should be prepared and alert on the streets," Diosdado Cabello, head of Venezuela's all-powerful National Constitutional Assembly, said Tuesday. Maduro also blasted the Rio Treaty event, saying it constitutes little more than a distraction for Duque, who is currently grappling with a wave of anti-government protests that have drawn thousands of Colombians to the streets.

"It's a meeting of puppets, of clowns," Maduro said.

It remains unclear how quickly any individual Rio Treaty nation will move to freeze bank accounts and enforce other restrictions – though nations recognizing Guaidó as interim president hailed it as an important step.

"If they can't take their money to the United States, to Europe, and now, they can't take it to Central America, they can't take it to South America, they can't travel to those places, it starts to really limit their options," said Michael Kozak, the acting head of U.S. diplomacy toward Latin America.

Kozak described recent revelations published by investigative news website Armando.info asserting that a group of opposition legislators had recently written letters in support of businessmen associated with the Maduro government to authorities in the U.S. and Colombia as "disturbing." But he said the U.S. was satisfied with Guaidó's response in initiating an investigation against the alleged misconduct.

"It does not undermine our confidence in the National Assembly," he said. "It shows why we have confidence in the National Assembly." □

Dominica protesters block airport roads in election fight

By CARLISLE JNO BAPTISTE and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP) — Protesters trying to cancel national elections blocked roads leading to the main airport on the eastern Caribbean island of Dominica on Tuesday, forcing passengers to drag suitcases through the street to make their flights.

Supporters of the opposition United Workers' Party set up burning roadblocks on the two main roads leading to Douglas-Charles Airport. Some passengers were forced to walk more than a mile to the airport. Seaborne Airlines, which flies to Dominica from Puerto Rico, cancelled its sole Tuesday flight "due to the uncertain situation," according to a statement on its website.

The former French and British colony of about 75,000 residents holds elections on Dec. 6. The opposition United Workers' Party has been pushing the ruling party to enact reforms that could reduce the ruling party's electoral advantage.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit's government has not enacted the reforms, leading to charges of unfairness.

Opposition supporters have called for more rigorous checking of voter registrations and a prohibition on expatriate Dominican citizens returning to vote in elections. The opposition has accused the government of buying voters by providing supporters with tickets home around election time. □



ORANJESTAD — Bernadette de Jong is the owner of the newest must-go-to boutique on the Main Street of Oranjestad. *Affaire de Femmes*, meaning Women's Affairs in French, is paradise for fashionistas. This is a unique store where European fashion brands will dress you up to impress others. Your personality will be underscored as *Affaire de Femmes* is about making you shine.

At the beginning of the Main Street, you will find the sophisticated and stylish window of *Affaire de Femmes* in a black-gold-silver setting with mannequin dolls that show different styles with stand-out looks, straight elegance with a nonchalant edge. Bernadette: "Yes, you notice the difference. I sell European designer brands that make you feel every women and because they are a sustainable product it does not only make you look beautiful but also consider our environment." It all started with the feeling she had when she dresses in her favorite fashion. "I feel just great and that is the energy you give out. People react to that and women love to be admired, let us be honest." She owns another *Affaire de Femmes* boutique in Curacao that opened in 1998. "For years I had in mind to start another one in Aruba, but I waited for the right opportunity. And here we are in the Main Street of Oranjestad."

Dress to make an impact

Upon entering the store, dynamic energy welcomes you with a smile. Bernadette's passion for fashion is in her blood. "Since I was a little girl I got crazy about dressing up." Her style is cool elegant and that reflects in the boutique's collection. "I love a woman's look when it is classy and comfy. You need to be able to move



around." The store carries a varied collection. Every woman can find her vibe, there. The brands are strictly European, such as Anne Fontaine, a French-based company. "A great white blouse, a cool jeans and glam heels. That's Anne Fontaine." Looks brimming with timeless elegance. French class with a smooth fit. From Milan, the brand Patrizia Pepe takes fashion from flirty dresses to tailor-made look. Italian rock glam in a deliberate minimalist tone you could say so. Top quality that fits like your skin. Perfect for the confident woman. Another of the Italian brands is Closed, based in Germany, is characterized as comfy and casual. .

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The Organization, Governance and Management Students of University Aruba: Different Aspects of Sustainability, Governance and Public Administration in Washington, DC

ORANJESTAD —The biennial educational excursion of the University of Aruba takes students to Washington, D.C. to experience firsthand how they can make a difference in Aruba in sustainability, governance and public management by visiting various prominent institutions.

A few weeks ago, students of the Organization, Governance & Management program of the University of Aruba had the opportunity to take an educational exchange to Washington, D.C. The excursion consisted of twenty students, three lecturers and a week of unforgettable memories. The excursion took place October 19th through October 26th, 2019, and comprised of an educational and inspirational schedule. The theme of this trip was to learn about Governance, Diversity, and Sustainability in Public Administration Educational programs and Civic Participation. Everyday consisted of visits to important international organizations, such as the Dutch Embassy, the University of the Dis-

trict of Columbia - School of Business and Public Administration, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Capitol Hill, Cannon House Office Building, Library of Congress and more. Throughout the week the students also had the opportunity of meeting some outstanding people, for example, Maureen Bunyan, Joselin Croes, Bjorn Kuil, Wade Henderson and a handful more inspiring guest speakers.

Inter-American Development Bank

A visit that stood out was when the students visited the Inter-American Development Bank, where the students received a tour of the main building, followed by a lecture from Kuil. Kuil is the Senior Counselor of the Dutch Representative for the organization. He spoke about what the organization IDB does, which is to provide financial aid to underdeveloped countries in need and assisting them in achieving sustainable development goals. The financial support that IDB provides is focused on

increasing the level of education and/or improving the economies of the countries involved. The IDB consists of 48 shareholders, including Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. Their yearly budget to support other countries is approximately twelve billion dollars. Kuil also discussed codes of conduct, ethics, and integrity when working in an organization. Such as the importance of knowing what to do and the choices you need to make when being in certain difficult work situations. All in all, the visit was a very interesting and knowledgeable one, especially because of all the information the students received.

University of the District of Columbia's – Food Hubs

During their visit to the University of the District of Columbia, students were given a presentation by the dean of the College of Agriculture and Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), Sabina O'Hara. During her presentation, she challenged the students to think about the importance of being good stewards of the resources our planet is offering. Many countries, such as Aruba, must import their food. This could lead to a decline in the nutritional value of the food because of the long distances the food travels before it reaches its destination before it is consumed. Many times, food needs to be treated with certain chemicals to remain fresh upon arrival. The clean and sanitary environment is also very important when storing food. There are some issues in growing your food, such as a lack of space where people can grow their food. A solution to this problem can be to grow our food vertically, using the space on buildings for instance. To achieve this, one must consider the capacity of such a building to be able to hold the weight of the soil needed to grow the fruits and vegetables. A proper drip irrigation system is also be needed for the proper supply of water, while the heat from the building itself can contribute to the growth of the food. This system can help farmers grow their food and distribute it to different parts of the country.

The Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the federal judiciary of the United States. On the main entrance to the Supreme Court Building, there is written "Equal Justice Under Law". These words illustrate the ultimate responsibility of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court consists of eight associate Chief justice nominated by the President of the United States. The Supreme Court offers tours to public proportions of the building. The OGM students had the once in a lifetime opportunity of visiting a courtroom lecture. The courtroom lectures are led by a trained volunteer teacher and the purpose of the courtroom lectures are to inform the visitors about the judicial functions, the architecture of the courtroom, and the history of the building. Furthermore, the Supreme Court courtroom cases are available for the public. The courtroom cases are called Oral arguments, they last about one hour, and each side is allowed to argue for 30 minutes each in court. The first 50 people inside can witness the entire session. However, the people who do not obtain a secured seat can walk through. Two lines form in front of the Supreme Court outside prior to the Oral arguments. In some cases, people will line up days in advance to secure a seat. All in all, the OGM students got an in-depth view and description of the Supreme Court which was an inspiration for the students studying Governance.

Another highlight of the trip was when the students and lecturers took a hop on and hop off night tour of the amazing touristic sites. The students got to see and take pictures of places like the Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial, the World War Two Memorial, Capitol Hill, the White House and much more. It is safe to say, that this educational excursion provided by the Organization, Governance and Management program at the University of Aruba is a field trip definitely worth experiencing. □

Navy ship Snellius ready with hydrographic tasks in the Caribbean

SAVANETA — Last week the hydrographic survey vessel Zr. Ms. Snellius started the ocean crossing from the Caribbean to home port Den Helder. The hydrographic survey vessel has checked the current sea charts for the past three months. This is done using a sonar. With that, the seabed around the Caribbean islands has been mapped out again. In addition, the crew of the Snellius used equipment to detect potentially dangerous objects on the seabed for shipping. The ship and her crew are expected to be back in the Netherlands for Christmas.

The majority of the voyage has sailed the Snellius around Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, Saba and the Saba Bank. In the last weeks of her journey, the ship made recordings at Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire. The work in this area was mainly focused on the ports and the associated approach routes for ships.

In addition to recording tasks, the Snellius - together with Zr. Ms. Johan de Witt - also provided emergency relief in the Bahamas in September after this island was hit by Hurricane Dorian. From the Snellius, the approach routes of the various ports in the Bahamas have been explored for the Johan de Witt landing craft.

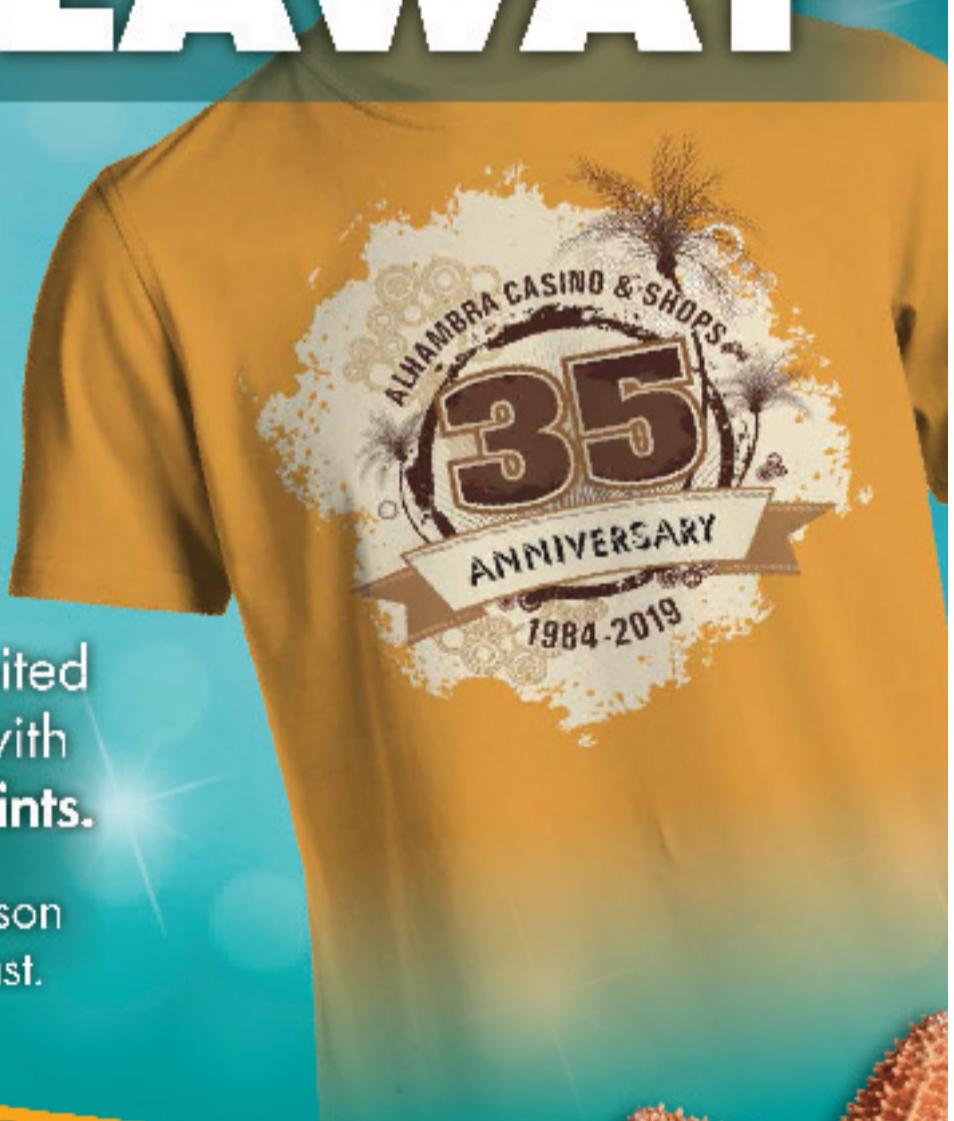
Zr. Ms. Snellius is a hydro-

graphic survey vessel. The ship has advanced sonar equipment with which the seabed can be mapped. In this way, nautical charts can be made and coastal areas can be mapped. The navy thus contributes to navigating safely through the waters of the Dutch kingdom. □



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Thanks given for exceptional Playa Linda employees

Work anniversary honorees in the spotlight during festive meal



5 years



15 years



5 years



15 years



30 years

ORANJESTAD -- In an act of "Thanksgiving", Playa Linda Beach Resort recently honored sixteen of its valued team members, who are each hitting a milestone work anniversary this year. A festive meal marking the occasion was recently held at Palms restaurant at the Hyatt Regency.

Honorees this year are veteran representatives of the Housekeeping Department with Maira Ridderstaat, Florencia "Gloria" Koolman and Jolanda Roza once again recognized for their 30-year careers with the Playa Linda. They were among the many double-digit anniversary celebrants, with Santo Rodriguez and Maria Matos recognized for their dedication exhibited over an impressive 20-year career; Adilson Silva, Milda Ras, Luc Broekman, Nigaima Ascencion and Pedro Partidas recognized for their contributions

over a 15-year career; and Jomar Abian recognized for 10 years of excellent work. Similarly valuable team members, who have displayed outstanding abilities over 5 years with the resort, are Reidson Costa, Laura Sanchez, Sebastian Cardenas, Mario Tromp and Aldrick Krozendijk.

The group Thanksgiving celebration provides the opportunity for the front- and back-of-the house to come together in a smaller setting, with honorees representing different departments including Housekeeping, Maintenance, Grounds, Front Office and Human Resources. Each honoree is an important part of the team as well as a treasured member of the Playa Linda family.

At the core of the resort's mission has always been to create a home away from home en-

vironment not only for timeshare members and guests but also for those that have chosen to pursue a career with the Playa Linda.

Throughout the year, employees are provided training opportunities, team building events and outings as well as recognition and the opportunity to grow. All three of the housekeepers marking 30 years have ascended to leadership roles and hold supervisory positions.

The Thanksgiving event was the culmination of different ways in which recognition and gratitude are expressed to individual team members. During the recent Thanksgiving meal, each employee was once again recognized and provided a plaque to commemorate their many years of exceptional service. □

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 04

Dinner under the stars at Renaissance Private Island

- Take a boat trip to Renaissance Island and let your taste buds travel to paradise. Enjoy our 4-course dinner menu consisting of Beef Ravioli or Sea Bass & Pumpkin, while your toes get pampered in our white secluded sand. Our private dinner setting includes a welcome cocktail at Lucy's Dock (across the Renaissance Mall), boat trip to Renaissance Private Island, dinner on the beach and live entertainment!
- 6:30 PM to 10 PM
- Renaissance Private Island
- Facebook Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



Sunday 08

X-Mas Concert

- Students of the School of Music 'Rufo Wever' will be delighting you with local, regional and international Christmas songs.
- 4 PM- 7 PM
- Aruba's House of Culture
- Facebook Cas di Cultura - Aruba's Cultural Platform since 1958



Thursday 05

Meet San Nicolas

- Every first Thursday of the month we invite you to come "Meet San Nicolas". The Promenade of San Nicolas will be transformed into a Cultural meeting place. Food, drinks, arts, dance and good vibe, come and mingle with our visitors and let them feel the warmth of the Aruban culture. Let's Meet San Nicolas in the Promenade, entrance is FREE thus meet you there.
- 6:30PM-10:00PM
- Mainstreet San Nicolas
- Facebook: Meet San Nicolas



Friday 06

Discover Local Art at Renaissance Marketplace

- Every Friday Night the Renaissance Marketplace transforms into a local art exhibition where you can see, touch or buy art pieces locally made by local artisans. Start your weekend with many dining options, Live musical entertainment, movie premiers and many more. The perfect way to relax and enjoy life.
- From 7 – 10 PM
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook Renaissance Marketplace



Saturday 07

UFC Fight night at Eagle Aruba Casino

- Enjoy the UFC event on 34 HD TV's and 6 giant screens. The Double Down Sports Bar & Grill has a new chef with quality bar food
- 2 PM- 5 PM
- Aruba Cosecha, San Nicolas
- Facebook Aruba Cosecha

Monday 09

Joy of Aruba

- Joy of Aruba is performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba's best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
- 8:30PM-9:30PM
- Divi Tamarijn
- Facebook Dream, Dare, Do - Aruba and POPCORN CLUB & DANCERS ARUBA



Tuesday 10

Italy for a night at Casa Nonna

- Take a genuine trip to the most emblematic corners of Italy enjoying a 4-course menu inspired by Sicily at Casa Nonna New York.
- 8PM
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

SPORTS



JOKE AS PLAYING CAPTAIN TURNS INTO REALITY FOR TIGER

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Tiger Woods meant it as a joke. And it was accompanied by laughter.

Woods was introduced as U.S. captain for the Presidents Cup in Australia on March 13, 2018, and the first question was whether he considered being a playing captain.

"Yes, I have," Woods said. The laughter that followed that day at Bay Hill could have been interpreted two ways.

His answer was quick and short, no elaboration necessary, because a guy who dominated golf like no one else had never considered himself anything but a player.

Or maybe it was simply laughable to think of Woods playing in team matches again.

At the time, it had been four years and five months since he played on his last team, the 2013 Presidents Cup at Muirfield Village. He had gone through four back surgeries since then, limiting him to only six tournaments in the previous two years. And only five months earlier, when he was a vice captain at the Presidents Cup, he said he could envision a scenario where he never competed again.

"It was a joke," Woods said Tuesday at the Hero World Challenge, smiling at the memory. "But it turned into reality. Here we are."

That now seems so long ago.

BALL HAWKS

Seattle Seahawks sit at first place in the NFC West

Seattle Seahawks' Jason Myers (5) kicks a field goal against the Minnesota Vikings during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Seattle.

Associated Press
Page 20



Allen gets shutout, Blues blank short-handed Blackhawks 4-0

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jake Allen made 38 saves, Brayden Schenn scored his team-leading 14th goal and the St. Louis Blues beat the short-handed Chicago Blackhawks 4-0 on Monday night for their fourth consecutive victory.

Jaden Schwartz, Tyler Bozak and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored for St. Louis, which improved to 13-3-3 since star forward Vladimir Tarasenko was sidelined by a left shoulder injury that required surgery.

It was Allen's first shutout of the season and No. 20 for his career, matching Jaroslav Halak for second on the franchise list.

Brian Elliott leads the way with 25.

Chicago lost for the sixth time in seven games since a four-game win streak.

The last-place Blackhawks played a man short because of injuries and the salary cap, going with 11 forwards and six defensemen.

ISLANDERS 4, RED WINGS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Jordan Eberle scored two goals and Semyon Varlamov made 30 saves as New York handed Detroit its 10th straight defeat.

Anders Lee and Anthony Beauvillier also scored for the Islanders, who were outshot 31-25 but never trailed.

Dylan Larkin had the only goal for the Red Wings.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, RANGERS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Tuch scored twice in the first four minutes and Vegas went on to a win over New York.

Reilly Smith and Max Pacioretty also scored to help the Golden Knights get their first three-game winning streak of the season. Malcolm Subban stopped 29 shots as Vegas improved to 5-2-1 after a season-high five-game skid (0-4-1).

Brendan Lemieux scored and Henrik Lundqvist finished with 28 saves for the Rangers, who were 4-0-1 in their previous five games. The Rangers went 0 for 6 on the power play against a Vegas team that came in tied for fifth in penalty-



St. Louis Blues goaltender Jake Allen (34) makes a save as Jay Bouwmeester (19) Tyler Bozak (21) and Chicago Blackhawks' Dominik Kubalik watch during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

killing.

Subban got the start while Marc-Andre Fleury is away from the team following his father's death.

SABRES 7, DEVILS 1

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jack Eichel had a goal and two assists, and Buffalo used a five-goal first period to beat New Jersey.

Eichel scored 2:46 into the

game, and Conor Sheary scored twice during the first 20 minutes.

Jeff Skinner and Rasmus Asplund also had goals in the first, and Victor Olofsson and Henri Jokiharju scored in the second. Linus Ullmark made 44 saves for the Sabres.

Louis Domingue was pulled after allowing five goals on 15 shots.

He was replaced by Mackenzie Blackwood, who made 15 saves.

The Sabres blew out New Jersey while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the birth of the franchise. Buffalo was awarded an expansion team on Dec. 2, 1969.

DUCKS 4, KINGS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Derek Grant scored two goals, Ryan Miller made 34 saves and Anaheim beat

Los Angeles in the first Free-way Faceoff rivalry game of the season.

Jakob Silfverberg scored his team-leading 10th goal, Hampus Lindholm had three assists, and Carter Rowney had a goal and an assist as the Ducks won for just the third time in 13 games.

Anaheim hung on through a tense third period with a few big saves from Miller, who filled in for the ailing John Gibson, before Grant scored an empty-net goal from center ice with 38 seconds left.

Kurtis MacDermid and rookie Nikolai Prokhorkin scored for the last-place Kings, who have lost four of six after a previous run of solid play.

Jack Campbell stopped 16 shots. □

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Seahawks take over 1st place in NFC West, beat Vikings 37-30

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — By the time the playoffs arrive, the Seattle Seahawks are going to feel just fine in a close, tight game.

Even when they're comfortably ahead, the Seahawks have a way of making the final minutes more than a little unnerving.

"Close games are cool, aren't they? I like them," Seattle coach Pete Carroll joked. "Maybe the 17 points was too much. Maybe we shouldn't have been ahead by that much."

Thanks to the combo of Rashaad Penny and Chris Carson, and one big strike from Russell Wilson, the Seahawks built a big second-half lead before holding off the Minnesota Vikings for a 37-30 win Monday night.

Penny scored one touchdown rushing and one receiving, and Wilson hit David Moore on a 60-yard touchdown pass as the Seahawks scored 24 straight points to take control before needing to hold on late as the Vikings tried to rally.

Seattle (10-2) moved into a tie with San Francisco atop of the NFC West but holds the tiebreaker. The Seahawks have the inside track to the division title with four games left.

"Just couldn't be more excited to have that kind of win and put us at 10 wins, that's a nice spot for this time," Carroll said. "We kick it into the fourth quarter and now it's finish time."

Minnesota (8-4) fell a game behind Green Bay in the NFC North and is only one game ahead of the Los Angeles Rams in the wild-card race. They lost star running back Dalvin Cook to a shoulder injury when he fumbled midway through the third quarter in what



Seattle Seahawks' David Moore races toward the goal line for a touchdown on a 60-yard pass reception against the Minnesota Vikings during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Seattle.

Associated Press

became a major turning point.

Cook said he believes he should be able to play next week and took responsibility for the fumble.

"Everybody acts like this is the end of the world, we lost one game tonight," Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer said. "We're 8-4 we have four games left, three division games. This isn't the end of the world, we still have a lot of good football left to play."

Wilson wasn't great, but he came up with key plays as Seattle won its fifth straight. He had a forgettable first-half moment trying to bat down a deflected pass only to watch Anthony Harris intercept the ball and return it for a touchdown. Wilson was 21 of 31 for 240 yards.

The key was the running of Penny and Chris Carson. Seattle rushed for 218

yards, the most allowed by Minnesota this season. Carson had 102, including a 1-yard TD. Penny added 74. The Vikings were giving up just 94 yards per game rushing.

"Our running game has been a staple of our offense. That's our foundation and both of those guys are amazing backs. They're really coming on," Seattle offensive lineman Duane Brown said.

Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins was 22 of 38 for 276 yards but couldn't connect with Irv Smith Jr. on fourth-and-3 at the Vikings 42 with 2:31 left. Jason Myers' 36-yard field goal with 21 seconds left provided the final margin for Seattle.

"I think we have a football team that can go on the road in a tough environment and get a win. I think this is an opportunity we missed. It's disappointing,"

Cousins said.

It was a wild second half featuring 40 combined points and four key turnovers — three by Minnesota.

Seattle pulled even at 17 on Penny's 1-yard TD run. On Minnesota's first play of the next possession, Cook was stripped by Rasheem Green, and Bradley McDougald recovered. It was the first of two critical turnovers that led to 10 points for Seattle.

The Seahawks were held to a field goal following Cook's fumble but took a 27-17 lead on their next possession when Moore ran free through the Vikings secondary and Wilson hit him in stride.

Minnesota cornerback Xavier Rhodes appeared to think he had safety help over the top, but no one was there as Moore sprinted for his second TD

catch of the season on the next-to-last play of the third quarter.

The first play of the fourth quarter was forgettable for the Vikings as well. Cousins' pass for Stefon Diggs was intercepted by Tre Flowers, who may have gotten away with pass interference, but deflected the pass and made a juggling interception at the Minnesota 25. Three plays later, Wilson found Penny on a screen pass and Seattle had a 17-point lead.

Minnesota's rally started with Seattle's own blown coverage as Cousins hit Laquon Treadwell for a 58-yard TD. Seattle seemed poised to add on, helped by a fake punt that Travis Homer took for 29 yards, but DK Metcalf fumbled and the Vikings recovered at their 28 with 9:34 left.

It took barely 2 minutes for Minnesota to pull within 34-30 as Cousins connected with Kyle Rudolph for a 3-yard touchdown and another brilliant one-handed catch by the Vikings' tight end. But that was as close as Minnesota would get.

"We're in control and that's a great thing. We like having that," Wilson said.

FLU BUG

Moore and Flowers were both among a group of Seattle players that missed time this week as a flu bug circulated through the locker room.

Tyler Lockett was another who was slowed by illness and was held without a catch for the first time since the 2017 season.

INJURIES

Vikings left tackle Riley Reiff suffered a concussion early in the second half and was ruled out. Cook immediately went to the locker room after his fumble with a shoulder injury and did not return. □

Carolina Panthers fire head coach Ron Rivera

By STEVE REED

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The Ron Rivera era has come to an abrupt end in Carolina.

The Panthers fired their all-time winningest head coach with the team on a four-game losing streak and headed to its third non-playoff season in four years.

"I believe this is the best decision for the long-term success of our team," Panthers owner David Tepper said in a statement Tuesday. "I have a great deal of respect for Ron and the contributions he has made to this franchise and to this community."

Secondary coach Perry Fewell was named interim head coach.

Offensive coordinator Norv Turner will transition to special assistant to the head coach, and quarterbacks coach Scott Turner will serve as offensive coordinator.

Tepper said he will begin a search for a new coach immediately.

Rivera was hired in 2011 and was 76-63-1 in the regular season and a 3-4 postseason mark. In nine seasons

Rivera guided the team to a Super Bowl appearance, an NFC championship and three NFC South titles.

But the Panthers have fallen on hard times lately following injuries to quarterback Cam Newton the past two seasons.

The Panthers are 5-7 this season and are all but eliminated from playoff contention after a 29-21 loss to the Washington Redskins on Sunday at home.

When asked if he was worried about his future with the team on Sunday after his team surrendered a 14-0 lead to the Redskins, Rivera replied, "I'm not worried about my future. I'm worried about this football team. We have a game coming up on Sunday" at Atlanta.

They started this season 5-3. Last year the team was 6-2 but lost seven straight games and finished 7-9.

Since losing to the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50 four seasons ago, the Panthers are 29-31 and have not won a playoff game.

Rivera, 57, did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment from The Associated Press.

Rivera's firing might not be



Carolina Panthers head coach Ron Rivera speaks to the media following an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

the only change coming. Tepper, who bought the team in 2018, said long-term mediocrity is not an option for the Panthers.

"We are going to take a comprehensive and thorough review of our football operation to make sure we are structured for long-term sustained success," Tepper said. "Our vision is to find the right mix of old-school discipline and toughness with modern and innovative processes. We will consider a wide range of football executives to complement our current football staff."

Tepper said the team will hire an assistant general

manager and vice president of football operations. "We all must recognize that this is the first step in a process, but we are committed to building and maintaining a championship culture for our team and our fans," Tepper said.

Rivera was extremely well liked in the Panthers locker room, and he easily related to players having played nine seasons in the NFL for the Chicago Bears, winning a Super Bowl with Jim McMahon, Walter Payton and others in 1985.

Rivera is a two-time NFL Coach of the Year and likely won't have a problem

landing a job next season. As for what the move means for Newton remains to be seen given that Tepper has shown he's not afraid to make big changes.

The legacies of Rivera and Newton have always been intertwined as both came to the Panthers in 2011. Newton is coming off shoulder and foot injuries and the team could save \$19 million under the salary cap if they release or trade him after the season.

Kyle Allen has filled in for Newton this season at quarterback and is 5-5 as a starter. □

Pats, Ravens, Seahawks simply need win to reach playoffs

By The Associated Press

New England, Baltimore and Seattle have the simplest NFL playoff scenarios going into Week 14: Win on Sunday and they're in.

The Patriots (10-2) can clinch their 11th straight trip to the playoffs with a victory at home against AFC West-leading Kansas City. The Chiefs (8-4) are in with a win and an Oakland loss.

New England reached the post-season in 16 of coach Bill Belichick's first 19 seasons.

The Patriots, a game ahead of Buffalo in the AFC East, have several ways to get in with a tie this week.

The Ravens (10-2) have the edge on New England for the AFC's top seed because of a win over the

Patriots. Baltimore clinches a play-off spot with a victory at Buffalo and wraps up the AFC North with a win and a Pittsburgh loss or tie.

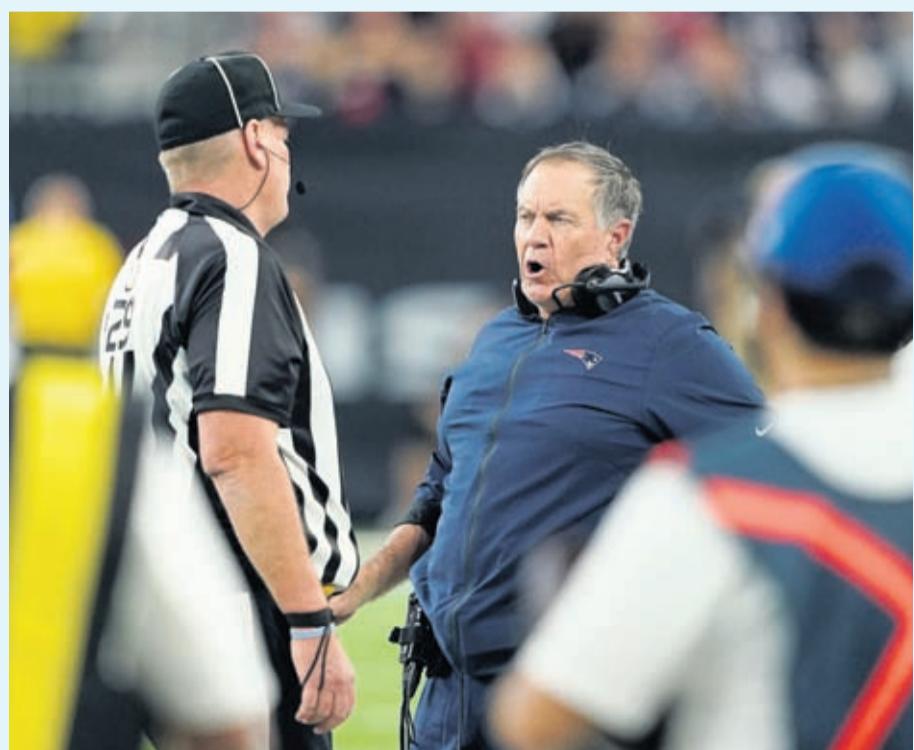
Baltimore and New England each have a far-fetched scenario to get in with a loss.

The Bills (9-3), who have won three straight games, need help to get in this week if they win.

The Seahawks and San Francisco are tied for the NFC West lead at 10-2. Both will qualify with victories because Seattle is playing the two-time defending division champion Los Angeles Rams.

If the Rams lose, the 49ers are in with a win or tie at New Orleans.

The NFC South champion Saints (10-2) are the only team to clinch so far. □



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, center, questions a call during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

Hawks top Warriors in matchup of teams with worst records

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Trae Young scored 24 points, rookie De'Andre Hunter added 18 and the Atlanta Hawks snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 104-79 win over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the NBA. The Warriors (4-18) finished with a season low in points (4-18). It was the lowest point total allowed by the Hawks (5-16). Golden State dressed just nine players, even with center Kevon Looney returning to action after missing 19 games with a nerve condition.

Rookie Eric Paschall led Golden State with 24 points, but his teammates combined to shoot 24 of 72, and the Warriors were slowed by 25 turnovers, which the Hawks converted into 25 points. The Warriors were missing Draymond Green, DeAngelo Russell and Stephen Curry, among others. Hunter scored 13 of his 18 points in the first half. He left the game midway through the fourth quarter with what appeared to be a wrist injury.

76ERS 103, JAZZ 94

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tobias Harris scored 26 points and Philadelphia beat Utah for its eighth win in nine games and 10th straight at home. Al Horford had five baskets in the first quarter for 12 of his 17 points. James Ennis III finished with eight points.

Rudy Gobert scored 27



Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) drives between Golden State Warriors' Eric Paschall (7) and Ky Bowman (12) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

points for the Jazz, who trailed by 40 points to Toronto a night earlier and faced an 18-point deficit against Philadelphia at the break. Philadelphia's Joel Embiid had another off night, scoring 16 points on 5-for-13 shooting.

SUNS 109, HORNETS 104

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 23 points, including two clutch 3-pointers in the final minute that lifted Phoenix over Charlotte.

Devin Booker added 23 points and Dario Saric had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who snapped

a three-game skid. Marvin Williams led the Hornets with a season-high 22 points and Devonte Graham had 15 points and 12 assists.

The Suns led by 20 at the break, but squandered that lead and trailed by five in the final minute. That's when Oubre knocked down back-to-back 3s to put the Suns ahead with 19.8 seconds left.

B. Giannis Antetokounmpo needed only 14 minutes to record another double-double, finishing with 29 points and 15 rebounds as Milwaukee won its 12th

straight game.

The Bucks (18-3) led by as many as 47 and cruised behind Antetokounmpo.

The reigning MVP shot 10 of 14 from the field, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range, while playing 22 minutes.

Milwaukee's winning streak is the longest in the NBA this season and the franchise's longest since the 1981-82 season.

D.J. Wilson added a career-high 19 points, Khris Middleton had 16 and George Hill 14 for the Bucks, who improved to 9-1 at home.

Julius Randle paced New York with 19 points and Da-

myean Dotson had 15.

PACERS 117, GRIZZLIES 104

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 points, Domantas Sabonis added 18 and Indiana beat depleted Memphis. Seven players scored in double figures for the balanced Pacers, including Myles Turner with 17 points. Jeremy Lamb and Justin Holiday had 15 apiece, with Holiday missing only one of his six 3-point attempts. Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with a season-high 31 points. Solomon Hill moved into the starting lineup and added 22, also a season best. Dillon Brooks finished with 19 on 7-of-16 shooting. The Grizzlies were short-handed as five players — all key parts of the rotation — sat out with various ailments. That left reserves to try and play with any kind of rhythm.

BULLS 113, KINGS 106

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Zach LaVine scored 28 points and made four free throws in the final 11 seconds, and Chicago overcame a sloppy fourth quarter to beat Sacramento. Lauri Markkanen had 20 points and seven rebounds, Wendell Carter added 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Tomas Satoransky scored 14 points as Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak. Buddy Hield finished with 26 points for Sacramento. Richaun Holmes added 20 points and nine rebounds. □



Ohio State wide receiver Austin Mack (11) celebrates after scoring on a 16-yard touchdown reception against Michigan in the second half of an NCAA college football game in Ann Arbor, Mich., Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer
Ohio State will go into championship weekend as the top team in the Col-

lege Football Playoff selection committee's rankings, followed by LSU, Clemson and Georgia. Utah was fifth, Oklahoma

Ohio St, LSU, Clemson, UGA in CFP position; Utah, OU next

sixth and Baylor seventh in the committee's second-to-last top 25 released Tuesday. The final rankings that set the pairings for the national semifinals come out Sunday after each FBS conference plays a championship game this weekend. The most pivotal games will be LSU-Georgia in the Southeastern Conference championship game; Oklahoma-Baylor in the Big 12 championship; and Utah-Oregon — 13th this week — for the Pac-12 title Friday night. Wisconsin was eighth, followed by Florida and Penn State. Alabama was 12th, its lowest ranking in the six years the committee has been doing a weekly top 25 over the final third of the season.

Alabama's drop after losing to Auburn, which was 11th, means the Crimson Tide will not only miss the playoff for the first time in its six-year history, but it won't even play in a major bowl. The last time

Alabama played in something other than a New Year's Six or BCS bowl was after the 2010 season. The Tide beat Michigan State 49-7 in the Capital One Bowl in Orlando.

Among teams outside the Power Five, Memphis was highest ranked at 17th. Boise State is 19th and Cincinnati, which faces Memphis in the American Athletic Conference title game, was 20th. Appalachian State out of the Sun Belt is 21st. □

Nats 1B Zimmerman plans to be back with champs _ or retired

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman figures he'll either find himself back with the World Series champions next season — or out of baseball.

"I think I've made my intentions pretty clear," Zimmerman said Monday night, when he attended the premiere of a documentary about last season's title. "It's either play some more here or play more golf."

The 35-year-old Zimmerman is the only player who has appeared for the Nationals in all 15 of their seasons since the franchise moved to the nation's capital from Montreal in 2005. He was the team's first pick in the amateur draft that year.

The club declined its \$18 million option for next season on Zimmerman, who received a \$2 million buyout and became a free agent. But he expects to return to Washington.

"Both sides want something to happen. So it's just a matter of getting something done," he said. "We'll see what happens, but I'm not too worried about it." Zimmerman, who has earned more than \$125 million in his big league career, joked that his friends "tell me I should go claim unemployment."

He dealt with injuries in 2019 and appeared in only 52 regular season games, batting .257 with six homers and 27 RBIs. But he moved into the lineup during the postseason, starting Washington's last 13 games as they wound up beating the Houston Astros in the World Series for the city's first championship since 1924. "We're riding high on a lot of emotions and a lot of Bud Light," general manager Mike Rizzo said at the documentary premiere. Rizzo, who said he got married in Jamaica in November, said he didn't want to discuss "2020 updates right now." He said that while



Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman poses with the World Series trophy as he arrives for the premiere of a documentary film on the team's first World Series baseball championship, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

he's spoken to representatives for key free agents Stephen Strasburg and Anthony Rendon, he hasn't seen those two players face-to-face to talk about possible offers.

"We've been meeting for about 10 years, so there's no need to have a personal meeting," Rizzo said. "They know where our heart lies and we know where their heart lies." Notes: The

Nationals agreed to one-year deals with INF Wilmer Difo for \$1 million and RHP Hunter Strickland for \$1.6 million, avoiding arbitration. Strickland can also earn up to \$600,000 in performance bonuses: \$75,000 each for 25 games and each additional five through 50, \$50,000 for 20 games finished and \$100,000 for 30 games finished. ... Washington also tendered con-

tracts to SS Trea Turner, RHP Joe Ross, OF Michael A. Taylor and LHP Roenis Elías. But RHP Javy Guerra was non-tendered. ... RHP Koda Glover announced on Twitter that he is retiring at age 26 after a series of injuries, including a forearm problem that sidelined him for all of 2019. Glover went 3-4 with nine saves in 13 chances and a 4.55 ERA across 55 1/3 innings. □

Joke as playing captain turns into reality for Tiger

Continued from Page 18

The notion that he would be at Royal Melbourne without his clubs is absurd.

Starting with the Tour Championship last year, when Woods had gone five years without winning, he won at East Lake to complete one phase of his comeback. Then, he won the Masters in April, the missing piece, because he had gone 11 years since his last major and 14 years since his last green jacket.

And then he had another surgery on his left knee — his fifth, making the knee 1 up over the lower back — and returned two months later by winning the Zozo Championship in Japan for his 82nd victory on the PGA Tour, tying Sam Snead for the career record.

"To come back from what I've come back from and have won three events, it's been pretty good," Woods said.

He is not entirely back to normal because Woods turns 44 at the



In this Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019 file photo, Tiger Woods hits from a sand trap on the fourth hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

Associated Press

end of the month, and his body — no matter how often it's been repaired — doesn't respond the way it did when he was in his early 30s. What doesn't get enough attention was the knee surgery the week of the Tour Championship to clean up minor cartilage damage.

The surgery was supposed to be after his Hero World Challenge last year, but he wanted to start the season at Torrey Pines and surgery wouldn't have allowed it. So he put it off, and then it caught up with him later in the year when he couldn't practice as much and rarely squatted down to read

putts. Was it worth it? Of course. "I did get a Masters out of it," Woods said.

The surgery ultimately gave him a busier schedule than he would have imagined, and it gave golf a boost at a time of the year that it's easily forgotten.

What follows is two weeks of Tiger in dual roles.

Next week, he heads to Royal Melbourne as the captain of a team that has little to gain and much to lose. The Americans have not lost the Presidents Cup since 1998, such dominance that winning is a given. The last thing Woods wants is to be in charge of a team that allows the International team to end years of futility, particularly a team that has only two players who have won tournaments this year — Joaquin Niemann and C.T. Pan, both Presidents Cup newcomers.

He is the first playing captain since Hale Irwin in 1994 for the inaugural matches that really did feel like an exhibition. □



By Carlos M Viana, OMD, CCN

SANTA CRUZ - Dementia is the umbrella designation for severe loss of intellectual ability and personality integration, due to the loss or damage of brain function. Dementia comes from the Latin word "madness" and "out of one's mind". Brain dysfunction has been around since the dawn of recorded history. Dementia is a state of emotional and mental deterioration. A sad position for family members, I know, my father Manuel, a vibrant entrepreneur suffered from bouts of dementia the last six years of his life.

The World Health Organization states that dementia has become global epidemic. Every year 7.7 million new cases of dementia are diagnosed. 63% of people living with dementia live in low- and middle-income countries where access to social protection, services, support and care are very limited or even, intentionally denied.

Memory loss is a common symptom of dementia. However, memory loss by itself does not mean you have dementia. People with dementia have problems with two or more brain functions, such as memory and language. Although dementia is common in elderly people, it is not part of normal aging. The different names of brain diseases are named for doctors who first describe the symptoms affecting a specific part of the brain. Names include: Alzheimer, Parkin-

son's, Multiple sclerosis, or Lou Gering Disease, but they all produce dementia that is caused by other brain problems like a brain tumor, alcohol and drug abuse, or after a stroke.

Sadly, more and younger people are being diagnosed with dementia. In the 1970's in the United States, fast food chains churning out junk food, processed meat and grains grown using nitrogen-containing fertilizers became our new reality. Sales increased more than eight times from 1970 to 2005. Aided by the new marketing business and adding these new processed grains to foods, processed grain consumption increased 5 times during this 25-year period! Interestingly, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and fatty liver disease also increased during this period, even though medical science and health care steadily improved. As a certified clinical nutritionist, I have personally witnessed the relationship between diabetes and liver problems and diet and lifestyle.

Twenty years ago I was horrified to see high levels of lead when testing patients for toxic heavy metals. Our campaign to prohibit the sale of leaded gasoline brought almost instant improvement, lowering the amount of lead found in patients tested. Signs and symptoms usually don't appear until dangerous amounts have accumulated. Of the many symptoms, decline in mental functioning is most apparent. Babies who are exposed to lead before birth will have learning difficulties and slowed growth

Another metal to be concerned about, aluminum generates more than \$75 billion a year in the US industry alone. Although denied as "inconclusive", medical studies do show increased levels of aluminum in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. Aluminum has long been known to be poisonous to your nervous system. Evidence shows chronic exposure is a factor in many neurological diseases, including dementia, autism, and Parkinson's disease. Aluminum is to your central nervous system as cigarette smoke is to your lungs.

Scientists are clear that toxic metals damage brain tissue and lead to degenerative disease. To lower your risk, lower the use of toxic products. With the amount of chemicals and toxic heavy metals in cigarettes, smokers have more than double the risk of non-smokers of devel-

oping Alzheimer's. Common products containing aluminum include, cooking pots, aluminum foil, aluminum containing toothpaste, under-arm deodorant, vaccinations, processed foods (American cheese, baking powder, non-dairy coffee creamer, canned drinks), antacids, aspirin, many medications and cosmetics. Factories cause aluminum waste and what are they spraying in the air?

Why is Monsanto developing plants that are aluminum resistant?

Aluminum and other heavy metals are stored in the brain, lungs, thyroid, bone and liver and may inhibit proper function and cause degeneration of the kidneys and liver. The liver cleans your blood, detoxifies chemicals and metabolizes drugs. If it is not working properly, it cannot make Glutathione, your body's most powerful antioxidant and detoxifying agent. Antioxidants help protect your brain.

Cholesterol lowering medicines (statin drugs) are hard on the liver. Your brain is the fattest organ in the body, made up of about 75% fat! Why would you want to eat a "fat-free" diet and lower cholesterol? Stating that cholesterol lowers your chance of cardiovascular disease is a lie. Of course, we want to have enough GOOD cholesterol, like deep-water fish, nuts, and virgin olive oil, even eggs cooked without bad fats or oils. Healthy high cholesterol foods protect you against infectious diseases, dying young, being depressed, and having more accidents. Most of us need more good fats than the typical diet give us. The best source of healthy fat is high quality vitamin E and balanced Omega 3,6,9 supplements. I give lecithin to all my brain patients. Mothers who take lecithin while pregnant help the baby's developing brain.

Get The Point! Risk factors for Brain disease are only 5-10% genetics. Lifestyle, environment and attitude count so much more. Attention to what we eat and how we prepare it as well as avoiding toxins can lower many risk factors. We can arrange a hair analysis to check for toxic heavy metals that may contribute to rapid aging, including brain problems. Dietary supplements that have been proven to be beneficial for your heart are also great brain protectors. Protecting your brain is not just for seniors. All ages can benefit from preventative measures. □

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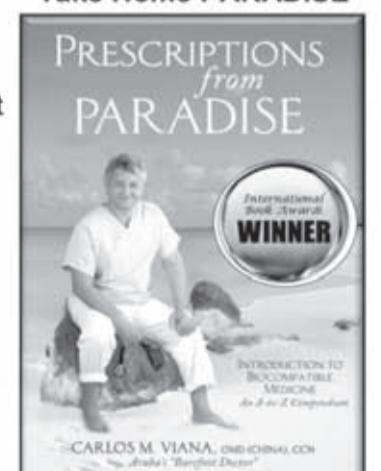
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Forever war: U.S. and China struggle to defuse trade conflict

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses and investors have been nervously monitoring U.S.-China trade talks for months, hoping the world's two biggest economies can de-escalate their trade war and restore some predictability to global commerce.

President Donald Trump delivered another setback to the optimists Tuesday, saying he was willing to wait until after the 2020 elections to close a deal with Beijing.

His comments came a day after Trump unexpectedly reversed his own policy on a separate trade front and pledged to tax steel from Brazil and Argentina. On top of that, his administration proposed to target \$2.4 billion in French imports in a retaliatory move over France's new digital tax. The Trump administration says France's tax unfairly targets American tech giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.

Trump's mercurial statements and actions on trade have rattled investors this week. In late morning trading Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down about 400 points.

Dan Digre has long since stopped expecting much from U.S. negotiations with China. He's heard it all before.

Digre's 70-year-old family firm, Misco Speakers in St. Paul, Minnesota, is caught in the crossfire of the U.S.-China conflict. Misco is absorbing Trump's tariffs on the parts it buys from China for the specialized speakers it makes for the aircraft and medical device industries, among others.

"I'm hopeful that something will happen, but I'm not optimistic," Digre said. "There have been so many false deals: A deal is close, a deal is close — then nothing."

Both sides may have an incentive to reach a deal before Dec. 15. That's when the Trump administration is set to start taxing an additional \$160 billion of Chinese imports. These



In this Oct. 10, 2019, file photo Chinese Vice Premier Liu He accompanied by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, left, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, greets the media before a minister-level trade meetings at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Washington.

Associated Press

tariffs would hit many Chinese-made goods that are on holiday shopping lists — smartphones and toys, for example — and would extend Trump's tariffs to just about everything China ships to the United States. A former Trump administration official who has been briefed on the talks and requested anonymity to speak frankly said the U.S. is considering delaying the Dec. 15 tariffs if the talks go well — but keeping the option to restore the tariffs if no progress is made toward a more comprehensive agreement.

The signs have been mixed. Last week, Trump said "We're in the final throes of a very important deal." And China's Commerce Ministry reported that its negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He, had spoken by phone with his U.S. counterparts, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The official Xinhua News Agency said the men had discussed their "core concerns" and "agreed to maintain communication on remaining issues in consultations on the Phase 1 deal."

Earlier, China had made goodwill gestures, issu-

ing improved guidelines for protection of patents, copyrights and other intellectual property and lifting a five-year ban on American poultry.

Then Trump's comments Tuesday seemed to suggest that a breakthrough might not come anytime soon.

It's been a year and a half since Trump declared that "trade wars are good, and easy to win." But his war with China has dragged on and on, with each side imposing — and raising — import taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Those taxes are paid by companies that import those goods. These importers must either absorb those higher costs or pass them on to customers in

the form of price increases. Negotiators have met 13 times. Truces have come and gone. Predictions of peace have proved premature.

For now, at least, the reality remains: The United States is taxing more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports, and Beijing is retaliating with tariffs on \$120 billion of American products. Not since the 1930s has the world seen such intense trade warfare.

The two sides are fighting over allegations that China has deployed predatory tactics in its drive to achieve global dominance in such advanced technologies as quantum computing and electric cars. The administration asserts, and many China analysts agree, that these tactics

include stealing sensitive technology, unfairly subsidizing their own firms and forcing foreign companies to hand over trade secrets as the price of admission to China's market.

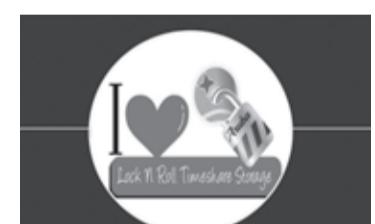
On Oct. 11, Trump had announced what he cast as a breakthrough: Beijing had agreed to buy far more U.S. farm products — as much as \$50 billion worth annually, the administration said — and to better protect intellectual property. In return, the United States suspended plans to raise tariffs on \$112 billion in Chinese goods.

Even though this so-called Phase 1 deal left the thorniest issues for future negotiations, the two sides still haven't managed to finalize it.

"It now looks likely that a Phase 1 deal will be rather limited in scope, hardly resolving the broader trade-related uncertainty that continues to cloud business sentiment in both countries," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist who formerly led the China division at the International Monetary Fund.

Beijing has been reluctant to make the kind of substantive policy reforms that would satisfy the Trump administration.

Doing so would likely require scaling back China's aspirations for technological supremacy, which it sees as crucial to its prosperity. □



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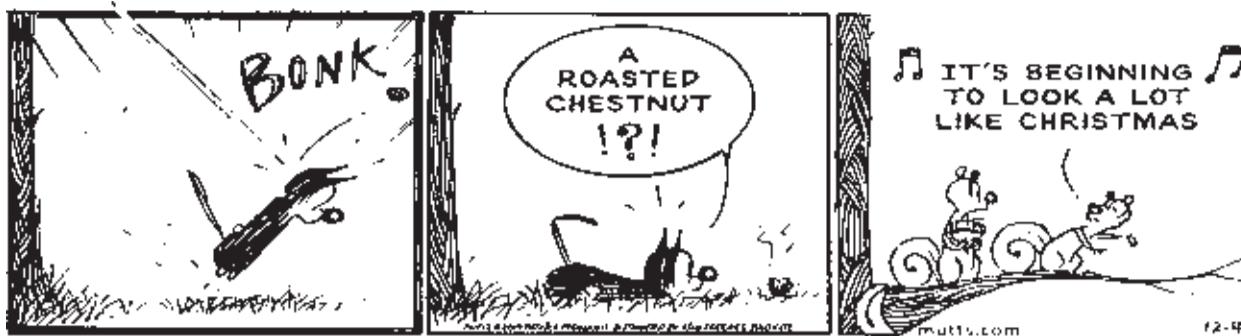
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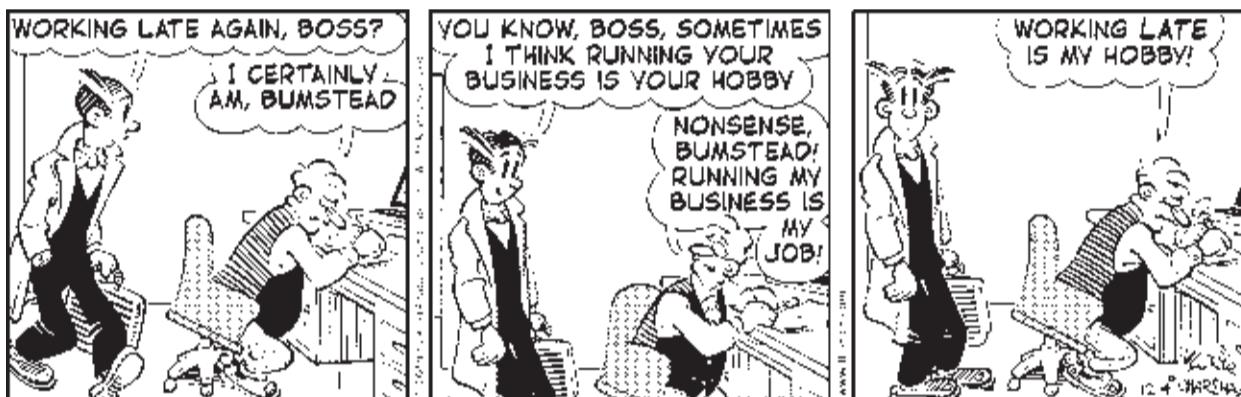
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6 Chix



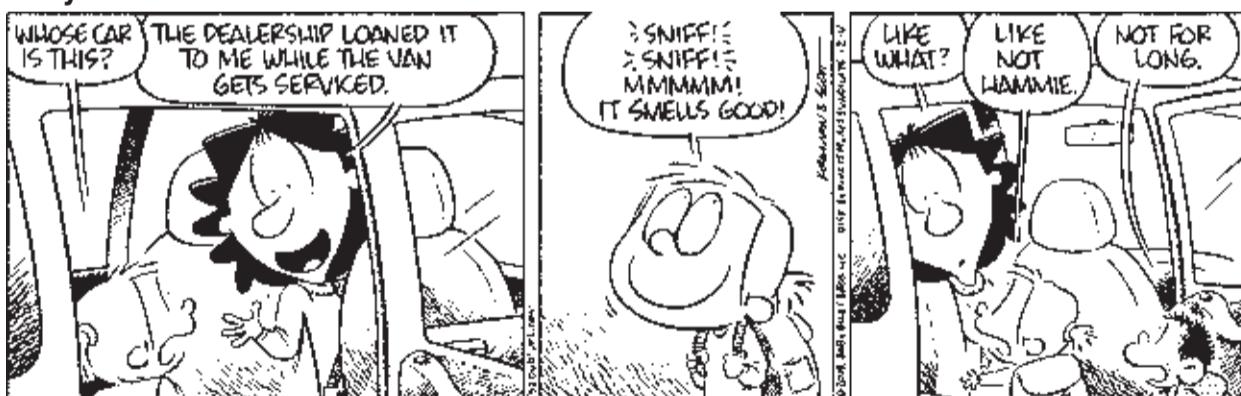
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues

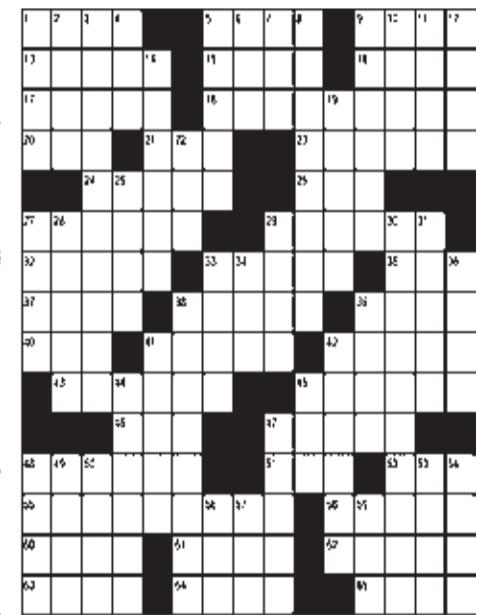


Zits



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Yesterday's puzzle answer



ACROSS

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5 Give off, as
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9 Skinny
13 Church volunteer
15 Go suddenly off
course
16 Bagel's center
17 One of the
Obamas
18 Easy to get along
with
20 Jungle beast
21 Potent
23 Chip off on
24 U.S. state capital
26 We're off to
the Wizard...
27 Weds without
fanfare
29 Jnt of Arizona's
ocean
32 Church
ceremonies
33 With, make
eyes at
35 "Gathering scarf
37 Computer screen
symbol
38 Sir, 5 secret
39 Drain problem
40 One of the
Kardashians
41 Highways
42 Self-confidence
43 Business
tagline
45 In: intruded
48 Shack
47 Sir
48 Cry from one
who's fed up
51 Look stock
carrel
52 Morning hour
55 Ecological
56 Piece of rock
60 Boulder
61 Actress Patricia
62 Fox from
Bengal
63 Gila's cousins
for short
64 Emphyse
65 Full-fledged
sac

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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New Yorker gets 40 years in prison for supporting Hezbollah

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Yorker convicted of providing material support to Hezbollah by seeking targets in New York City for terrorist attacks was sentenced Tuesday to 40 years in prison. Ali Kourani, 35, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein after the Lebanon-born Kourani was convicted at a May trial. He could have faced life in prison.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said in a release that Kourani spent years conducting surveillance at federal buildings, airports including Kennedy International Airport and even daycare centers after he was recruited, trained and deployed by Hezbollah's Islamic Jihad Organization. The prosecutor said Koura-

ni was the first operative of the group to be convicted and sentenced for his crimes against the U.S.

Authorities said Kourani came to the U.S. legally in 2003, earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering in 2009 and a master's degree in business administration in 2013. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in April 2009 and was issued a U.S. passport. Prosecutors said Kourani was recruited by the terrorist group after a family residence was destroyed in 2006 during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. They said he traveled to Lebanon in 2011, when he learned to use a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, assault rifles, a submachine gun, a machine gun and a Glock pistol. □

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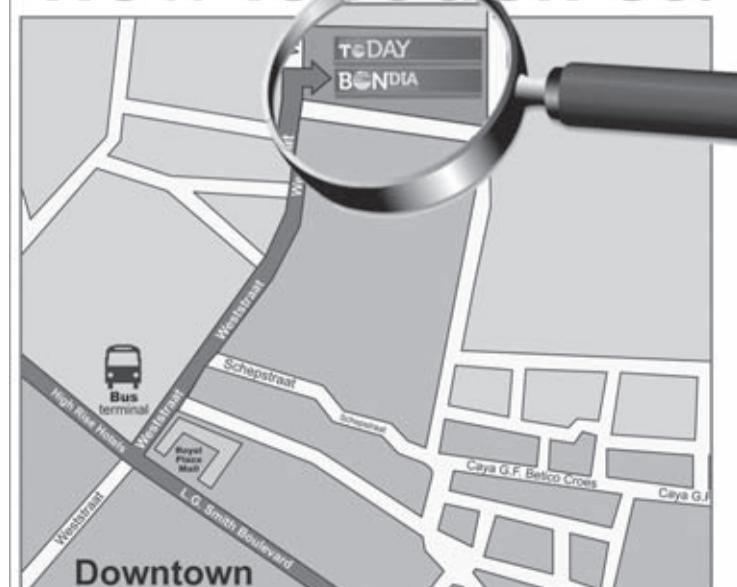
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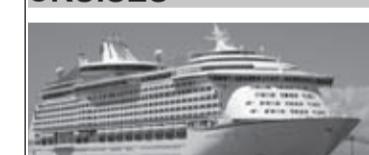
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China's climate paradox: A leader in coal and clean energy

By CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As world leaders gather in Spain to discuss how to slow the warming of the planet, a spotlight falls on China — the top emitter of greenhouse gases.

China burns about half the coal used globally each year. Between 2000 and 2018, its annual carbon emissions nearly tripled, and it now accounts for about 30% of the world's total. Yet it's also the leading market for solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles, and it manufactures about two-thirds of solar cells installed worldwide.

"We are witnessing many contradictions in China's energy development," said Kevin Tu, a Beijing-based fellow with the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. "It's the largest coal market and the largest clean energy market in the world."

That apparent paradox is possible because of the sheer scale of China's energy demands.

But as China's economy slows to the lowest level in a quarter century — around 6% growth, according to government statistics — policymakers are doubling down on support for coal and other heavy industries, the traditional backbones of China's energy system and economy. At the same time, the country is reducing subsidies for renewable energy.

At the annual United Nations climate summit, this year in Madrid, government representatives will put the finishing touches on implementing the 2015 Paris Agreement, which set a goal to limit future warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.



In this Nov. 27, 2019, photo, a solar panel installation is seen in Ruicheng County in central China's Shanxi Province.

Associated Press

Nations may decide for themselves how to achieve it.

China had previously committed to shifting its energy mix to 20% renewables, including nuclear and hydroelectric energy. Climate experts generally agree that the initial targets pledged in Paris will not be enough to reach the goal, and next year nations are required to articulate more ambitious targets. Hopes that China would offer to do much more are fading.

Recent media reports and satellite images suggest that China is building or planning to complete new coal power plants with total capacity of 148 gigawatts — nearly equal to the entire coal-power capacity of the European Union within the next few years, according to an analysis by Global Energy Monitor, a San Francisco-based non-

profit. Meanwhile, investment in China's renewable energy dropped almost 40 percent in the first half of 2019 compared with the same period last year, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, a research organization. The government slashed subsidies for solar energy.

Last week in Beijing, China's vice minister of ecology and environment told reporters that non-fossil-fuel sources already account for 14.3% of the country's energy mix. He did not indicate that China would embrace more stringent targets soon.

"We are still faced with challenges of developing our economy, improving people's livelihood," Zhao Yingmin said.

As a fast-growing economy, it was always inevitable that China's energy demands would climb steeply. The only question was whether the country could power a sufficiently large portion of its economy with renewables to curb emissions growth.

Many observers took hope from a brief dip in China's carbon emissions between 2014 and 2016. Today the country's renewed focus on coal comes as a disappointment.

"Now there's a sense that rather than being a leader, China is the one that is out of step," said Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air in Helsinki. He notes that several developed countries — including Germany, South Korea and the United States — are rapidly reducing their reliance on coal power.

After climbing sharply for two decades, China's emissions stalled around 2013 and then declined slightly in 2015 and 2016, according to Global Carbon Budget, which tracks emissions worldwide. This dip came as Chinese leaders declared a "war on pollution" and suspended the construction of dozens of planned coal power plants, including some in Shanxi.

At the same time, the government required many existing coal operators to install new equipment in smokestacks to remove sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide and other hazardous substances. About 80% of coal plants now have scrubbers, said Alvin Lin, Beijing-based China climate and energy policy director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, a nonprofit.

As a result, the air quality in many Chinese cities, in-

cluding Beijing, improved significantly between 2013 and 2017. Residents long accustomed to wearing face masks and running home air-filter machines enjoyed a reprieve of more "blue sky days," as low-pollution days are known in China.

In the past three years, China's carbon emissions have begun to rise again, according to Global Carbon Budget.

The coming winter in Beijing may see a return of prolonged smog, as authorities loosen environmental controls on heavy industry — in part to compensate for other slowing sectors in the economy.

Permits for new coal plants proliferated after regulatory authority was briefly devolved from Beijing to provincial governments, which see construction projects and coal operations as boosts to local economies and tax bases, said Ted Nace, executive director of Global Energy Monitor. "It's as though a boa constrictor swallowed a giraffe, and now we're watching that bulge move through the system," said Nace. In China, it takes about three years to build a coal plant.

The world has already warmed by 1 degree Celsius. All scenarios envisioned by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for holding planetary warming to around 1.5 degrees Celsius involve steep worldwide reductions in coal-power generation.

In that effort, other countries rely on Chinese manufacturing to hold down prices on solar panels, wind turbines and lithium-ion batteries.

"China has a really mixed record. On the one hand, it's seen rapidly rising emissions over the past two decades," said Jonas Nahm, an energy expert at Johns Hopkins University.

"On the other hand, it's shown it's able to innovate around manufacturing — and make new energy technologies available at scale, faster and cheaper." □

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Jeff Lindsay has entertaining new thriller

By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

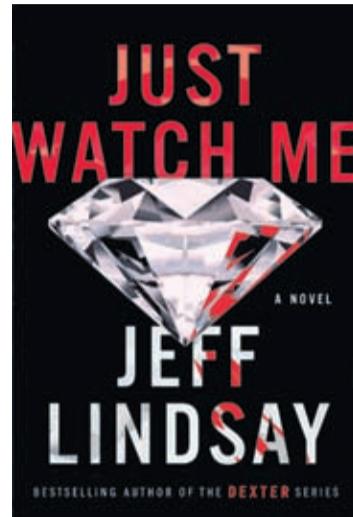
iley Wolfe gets his kicks executing spectacular robberies that no one else would even contemplate. His victims are always the super-rich, whom he despises as "smug, do-nothing, self-loving leeches."

This anti-hero makes his debut in "Just Watch Me," a supremely entertaining new thriller by Jeff Lindsay that promises to be the first of a series.

The plot combines the intricacies of caper movies such as "The Thomas Crown Affair" and "To Catch a Thief" with the creepy sensibility of the hit TV show "Dexter." The latter is no surprise since the show was inspired by Lindsay's eight novels featuring Dexter Morgan, a serial killer who preyed only upon other serial killers. Unlike Dexter, Wolfe takes no pleasure in murder, but he displays no qualms about dispassionately dispatching anyone who gets in his way.

The opening of the story finds Wolfe taking no satisfaction from his spectacular heist of a 12-ton sculpture, swiped in broad daylight at its dedication ceremony. For him, the spectacular has become ordinary, and it bores him. He craves a caper that is "beyond impossible, something ridiculous, unthinkable."

He finds it when the government in Tehran, hoping to thaw its relations with the United States, lends the Iranian crown jewels to a New York City museum. There, the multi-billion-dollar treasure is guarded by the latest in high-tech security systems and by both American-trained mercenaries and a "trigger-happy" contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Meanwhile, Wolfe is being tracked by Frank Delgado, a clever FBI agent who has been after him for years, always a step or two behind. Now, the agent has decided that the only way



This cover image released by Dutton shows "Just Watch Me," by Jeff Lindsay.

Associated Press

to catch Wolfe is to uncover his weakness — one that must have its roots in Wolfe's upbringing.

So Delgado crisscrosses the eastern half of the United States, digging into Wolfe's long-buried family history. Readers who know how caper stories usually work will have little doubt who is going to win this cat-and-mouse game, but the agent's fine detective work succeeds in unearthing the influences that turned Wolfe into the man he has become.

"Just Watch Me," then, is both an exciting crime story and a revealing exploration of the psychology of a master criminal. The writing is tight and vivid, the characters are convincingly portrayed and the action is nonstop. □

Drake is Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Drake is the king of streaming: the rapper has been named Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade.

Spotify announced Tuesday that Drake has been streamed 28 billion times in the last 10 years. Ed Sheeran came in second, while Post Malone, Ariana Grande and Eminem round out the Top 5. Sheeran's "Shape of You" was

the most-streamed song of the decade.

For 2019, Post Malone is the top-streamed artist globally. Billie Eilish, Grande, Sheeran and Bad Bunny round out the Top 5. Eilish's debut album — "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — is the year's most-streamed album, while Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's "Senorita" tops the list of the most-streamed songs. □



This cover image released by Dutton shows "Just Watch Me," by Jeff Lindsay.

Associated Press

Trump campaign to stop giving credentials to Bloomberg News

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's campaign said Monday it will no longer give credentials to Bloomberg News reporters to cover campaign events because of coverage "biases," an accusation that the news organization rejects. The decision comes a week after the news service's founder, billionaire Michael Bloomberg, announced he was seeking the Democratic nomination for president. And Bloomberg News, which the former New York City mayor founded in 1990, said it would not investigate him or his Democratic rivals but would continue to probe the Trump administration, as the sitting government.

Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale called it a troubling decision to "formalize preferential reporting policies." He said Bloomberg reporters would no longer be credentialed to cover campaign events until the policy is rescinded. "As President Trump's campaign, we are accustomed to unfair reporting practices, but most news organizations don't announce their biases so publicly," Parscale said. Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait said the accusation of bias couldn't be further from the truth. "We have covered Donald Trump fairly and in an unbiased way since he became a candidate in 2015 and will continue to do so despite the restrictions imposed by the Trump campaign," he said.

The Trump campaign's action illustrates the difficult position Bloomberg's candidacy has imposed on the news organization. By saying reporters could not investigate Bloomberg or his Democratic rivals, some critics have said this would prevent the news organization from doing in-depth reporting on the campaign. Bloomberg officials say it's a position they've navigated before when he was mayor. Journalists at Bloomberg would have been better served if he had made clear that he was stepping away from his company for the campaign and said that he — and any candidate for president — was fair game for any kind of stories that Bloomberg News reporters could dig up, she said. □



In this Oct. 8, 2016 file photo, Drake performs onstage in Toronto.

Associated Press



This Nov. 8, 2019 photo shows singer-songwriter, Paul Simon, left, and author-philosopher Peter Singer during an interview in New York to promote the new edition of Singer's book "The Life You Can Save."

Associated Press

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SAT-SUN 2:55 | 5:45 | 8:35

QUEEN & SLIM
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 12:55 | 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT-SUN 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

Frozen II
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30
FRI 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
SAT 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
SUN 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30

CXC
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00

21 BRIDGES
MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

CHARLIE'S ANGELS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
MON-FRI 6:45 | 9:20

TERMINATOR DARK FATE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
MON-SUN 9:10

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ALSO SHOWING:

Paul Simon and Peter Singer discuss 'The Life You Can Save.'

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Simon, world famous singer-songwriter, isn't only inspired by fellow musicians. Simon is an admirer of the author-philosopher Peter Singer, the longtime Princeton University professor whose "The Life You Can Save" has been a guide for Simon and others looking for ways to donate money. Singer has completed a new edition of the book, which comes out this week, and Simon is helping with the promotion. He read a chapter for the audio edition and sat with Singer recently for an Associated Press interview. "I'm very comfortable with Peter's way of thinking," Simon explains.

In "The Life You Can Save," first published in 2009, Singer is both high-minded and pragmatic. He considers the obligations we have to each other and how to expand our compassion for those we know to people we've never met.

In the book and on [www.thelifeyoucansave.org](http://thelifeyoucansave.org), he lists specific organizations, from Oxfam to Village Enterprise, that have been independently audited and recommended. He also probes the morality of giving, how much is expected of each of us, and addresses criticism on whether philanthropy is simply a way for the rich to improve their images and maintain power.

"If you ask me, 'Should there be an economic system in which nobody becomes a billionaire,' I would say yes," Singer says. "But if you say, 'In the world as it is, is it immoral for people to be a billionaire,' I would have to say no, because I know people who are giving away — like Warren Buffett — most (of their money). I think that's perfectly reasonable."

Simon, 78, and Singer, 73, spoke at Simon's midtown Manhattan office suite, in a room that showcases Simon's successes and passions, including shots of Simon with historical figures

such as Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama. He and Singer are both world citizens who might share stories about the Amazon forest or East Timor, or Singer's native Australia, where he saw Simon perform decades earlier.

They met in 2005, when Singer was among the honorees at a Time magazine gala for the world's "100 most influential people." "I went up to Peter," Simon recalls. "I was familiar with Peter, with his work, and I introduced myself and then we said, 'Let's get together.'"

"You and (Simon's wife) Edie (Brickell) came to dinner," Singer adds. "Then we met when you were in Australia."

Simon and Singer have a warm, sometimes teasing rapport ("I can't say it was a real page turner," Simon says jokingly about "The Life You Can Save"), strong enough that they can differ over what Simon calls Singer's "hierarchical priorities." Singer believes that, with so many urgent problems in the world, grand cultural projects such as art galleries and opera houses should hold far lower standing for would-be donors.

"Once we had a long walk along the beach in Melbourne," Simon explains, "and I said, 'So if we went down the list of what you would say is the most important places to make your contribution, in that way of thinking you would say that a donation to the Metropolitan Museum of Art would really be at the bottom of the list.'"

"Close to it, anyway," Singer says.

"I said, 'I disagree with that,'" Simon recalls. "I think that while we have an obligation to raise the lowest up to a point where they are being treated humanely, we also have an obligation to honor the creativity of what humans do at the highest level. That's also an expression of humanity."

"It's not that I don't value, of course, the creativity of humanity, and some of the

great works that have been achieved. And I'm glad that they're preserved," Singer answers. "I also think that in a world has so such present human need, that that should be the priority. ... When the Met buys a painting, it's not as if that painting would have been left out to rot had they not bought it."

Simon stopped touring in 2018 and laments — without naming names — that some of his wealthy contemporaries continue to make substantial amounts of money from concerts instead of using it to help others.

He still performs live, but donates profits to a variety of causes, whether for treating fistula, a condition afflicting millions of African women that Simon learned about through Singer, or for the environment, which he considers the most urgent problem.

Simon had been giving, and raising, money well before he knew of Singer. In the early 1970s, he was among the performers at a concert for Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern. He sang on the all-star "We Are the World" recording from 1985 and a few years later helped found the Children's Health Fund.

But he is also wary of events that fail to help the intended people. Simon found that compassion wasn't enough; he had to investigate first hand where the money went. He remembers being in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 2005, after Hurricane Katrina. He was there with a mobile medical unit, looking for community leaders who could help connect them with people in need of help.

"You really have to know what and to whom you're giving this money," he says. "All these years I had been doing these benefit concerts with all my friends and musicians. We'd come. We'd play. We pack up our guitars. We leave. And nobody ever says, 'Where'd that money go?'" □



In this Oct. 31, 2017, file photo, former President Barack Obama, right, and former first lady Michelle Obama appear at the Obama Foundation Summit in Chicago.

Associated Press

Obamas' publisher makes new pledge to education organization

NEW YORK (AP) — The publisher of Barack and Michelle Obama has pledged to donate 300,000 children's books to a leading educational organization, adding to the 1 million copies already given.

Penguin Random House announced Tuesday that it had joined with the former president and former first lady in contributing to First Book (www.firstbook.org) in the Obama family's name. For every \$3 donated to First Book between now and the end of the year, Random House will give two new books to First Book, up to 300,000 books. First Book distributes books and other resources to schools and programs serving children from low-income communities.

The initial First Book contribution was announced by Penguin Random House upon acquiring memoirs by the Obamas in 2017. Michelle Obama's million-selling "Becoming" came out last year. Barack Obama is currently working on his book about his years in the White House. "When children have greater access to our books and stories, we, together with President and Mrs. Obama, are helping to shape a literate, educated, and democratic society that will become the next generation of readers and leaders," Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle said in a statement. □



In this Sept. 29, 2019, file photo, a fan wears a shark hat as Washington Nationals' Gerardo Parra comes up to bat in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians at Nationals Park in Washington.

Associated Press

'Baby Shark' creators plan Navajo version of popular video

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Creators of the popular video "Baby Shark," whose "doo doo doo" song was played at the World Series in October and has been a viral hit with toddlers around the world, are developing a version in Navajo.

Pinkfong, a brand of the South Korea company SmartStudy, announced last week it is working with the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona, to create a new version of the widely popular tune about a family of sharks.

wide," Yoon said.

The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American reservation in the U.S. The Navajo word for shark is lóó hashkéhé, which translates to "angry fish."

The company is seeking voice actors to portray the roles of Baby Shark, Mommy Shark, Daddy Shark, Grandma Shark, and Grandpa Shark.

The original "Baby Shark Dance" video has garnered more than 4 billion views on YouTube.

"Baby Shark" has been around for a few years, but took the world by storm last year when the song and video went viral with the nursery-school set, with little kids imitating the hand-clapping dance that went along with the video.

Books, plush toys, and other merchandise inspired by the song became hot-ticket items for the holidays and the "Baby Shark" tour was soon hatched.

A second North American leg of the "Baby Shark" concert tour is launching in March.

During the World Series, Washington Nationals fans adopted "Baby Shark" as the team's rally song.

Nickelodeon has a "Baby Shark" cartoon series in the works. □



In this June 10, 2009, file photo, Czech-born author living in France Milan Kundera, right, is awarded the Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation World Prize for his lifetime achievement in Paris, France.

Associated Press

Novel" and "Immortality." His later works, written in French, were not translated into Czech.

The 90-year-old lives in virtual seclusion, only travels to his homeland incognito and never speaks to reporters. □

Author Milan Kundera as Czech citizenship restored

PRAGUE (AP) — Milan Kundera, the Czech-born author of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" has been given back the citizenship of his homeland that he lost 40 years ago.

The Czech ambassador to France, Petr Drulák, told Czech public television he handed Kundera his citizenship certificate last week in his Paris apartment.

It's a result of Kundera's meeting with Prime Minister Andrej Babiš in Paris last year.

Kundera fled Communist Czechoslovakia and has lived in France since 1975, and it is there that he published his most famous books, including "The Book of Laughter and Forgetting," "The Art of the

Patriotism is the theme of Christmas at the White House



The White House made of gingerbread also features landmarks from around the country in the State Dining Room during the 2019 Christmas preview at the White House, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Melania Trump is celebrating American patriotism at the White House this Christmas, incorporating red and blue into the traditional holiday green, adding a timeline of American design, innovation and architecture and studding a Christmas tree with her family's annual ornament, the American flag. The traditional gingerbread White House shares its stage with American landmarks including the Statue of Liberty and Golden Gate Bridge. "It is with great joy that our family welcomes you to the White House this holiday season as we celebrate the

sake. "We hope you enjoy our tribute to the traditions, customs and history that make our nation great."

The White House previewed the decorations for journalists on Monday before Trump and the first lady departed for London. Journalists were also admitted to the grounds of the Naval Observatory, the official residence for Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, to see the Christmas decorations there.

The East Colonnade of the White House is lined with double rows of see-through panels etched with more than 60 examples of American design, innovation and architecture, ranging from the Woolworth Building in New York City to the Space Needle in Seattle.

A tree dedicated to Gold Star families that lost an immediate relative during military service stands at the beginning of the hallway while a tree decorated with the Trump family ornament — an American flag this year — glistens at the end of the colonnade.

East Room decorations are inspired by the U.S. flag and feature gilded eagle Christmas tree toppers, mirrored stars and red and blue ribbons. In the State Dining Room, at the opposite end of the hallway, the decor continues to showcase American design.



The official White House Christmas tree is decorated in the Blue Room seen through the Cross Hall, during the 2019 Christmas preview at the White House, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

"Spirit of America," President Donald Trump, the first lady and their son, Barron, say in the signed introduction to a souvenir book visitors will receive as a holiday keep-

The gingerbread White House, built from 200 pounds (90 kilograms) of gingerbread and slathered in 25 pounds (11 kilograms) of royal icing and 35 pounds (16 kilograms) of chocolate, showcases the South Portico, including a staircase made using angel hair, fettuccine and spaghetti.

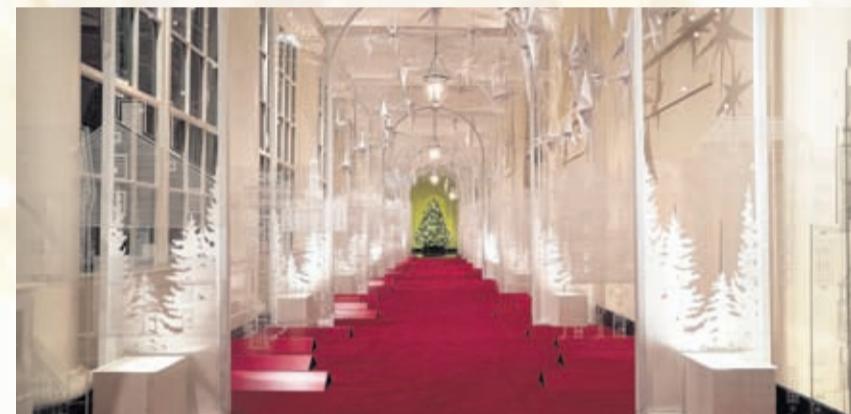
The popular display also features models of some of the nation's most famous landmarks, including Mount Rushmore, St. Louis' Gateway Arch, the Alamo, the Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty, along with the Golden Gate Bridge and the Space Needle.

State Floor of the White House to put finishing touches on the displays.

More than 225 volunteers flew in from around the country to help decorate the White House during Thanksgiving weekend.

Decorations in the public areas of the White House include 58 Christmas trees, more than 2,500 strands of light, more than 800 feet (244 meters) of garland and more than 15,000 bows.

At the Naval Observatory, more than 40 volunteers decorated Pence's residence using 2,100 feet (640 meters) of garland and white lights, more than 160



The East Colonnade is decorated with a timeline of American design, innovation and architecture during the 2019 Christmas preview at the White House, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington. This year's theme is, "The Spirit of America."

Associated Press

The Blue Room is again commanded by a towering tree, a 18 ½-foot Douglas fir from a Pennsylvania farm, decorated with flowers representing every state and territory. The Red Room is decorated with games, including trees made of White House playing cards bearing the president and first lady's signatures. It's meant to highlight her "Be Best" youth initiative and serve as a reminder of the kindness, respect and teamwork needed to play together.

Mrs. Trump continued her tradition of hanging wreaths on the mansion's exterior windows, 106 in all.

Late Sunday, she teased her Twitter followers with a minute-long video sneak peek of some of the decorations as she walked through the

red velvet bows and seven trees from a farm in Belvidere, New Jersey, to create a Victorian-themed Christmas. Eleven white stockings with red cuffs hang from the fireplace mantle in the dining room: one each for Pence and his wife, their three children, their daughter-in-law, two soon-to-be sons-in-law and pets Harley (a dog), Hazel (a cat) and Marlon Bundo (a rabbit).

The Pences also have a 70-pound (32 kilogram) gingerbread replica of their government-provided home on display.

Mrs. Pence, a watercolor artist, designed the family Christmas card showing the entrance to the house decorated with garland and a red bow, and a wreath on the white front door. □